
THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2023

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

The sign † indicates the original language and [] directly thereafter indicates a translation.

[Hybrid Sitting held with some members present in the House and some in virtual attendance through Microsoft Teams]

The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members about some of the logistical arrangements. As has been practiced to date, hon members will be participating in the Sitting of the House both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and Table staff and via Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The hon members experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting are requested to contact the WCPP ICT colleagues who will assist to resolve their connectivity challenges.

The quorum requirements for Sittings of the House are provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting is confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system, who are entitled to cast their votes as per the ATC issued on 11 August 2020.

Members present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order.

The Serjeant-at-arms will record the members' attendance. In instances where these Directives do not cover a particular eventuality, the Standing Rules must apply. In instances where the Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Members, all microphones have been muted. However, for those members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams, you are requested to use the raise-hand functionality of the system when you desire to raise a point of order and I will recognise you. When a member in the Chamber wishes to raise a point of order, such an honourable member may address the Presiding Officer, as expected, but must mute their microphones when they have completed speaking. Hon members are requested to please ensure that their microphones are unmuted when the Presiding Officer recognises them, and when they are done speaking to please mute their

microphones.

Hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams are requested not to sign into the Microsoft Teams on more than one device, unless the second device is utilised with earphones for language translation services, as all these actions result in the disruption of the sound during the Sitting.

The media have been granted access to the MS Teams meeting as guests of WCPP. However, I would like to remind the members of the press that they may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress. For the Sitting, members, language translation services are available in the Chamber as usual and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members participating in the House must please access the language translation services via a second device, for example, your cell phone, and if you have earphones available please use them for the language translation services.

Hon members, just a reminder that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid sessions. To this end, I draw the attention of hon members to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Hon members, I recognise the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the untimely passing away of hon Maurencia Gillion, the ANC in the Western Cape delegate to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP); notes that the comrade Maurencia was a dedicated servant of the people and served the ANC in different capacities including as Mayor of Theewaterskloof, the ANC Western Cape Treasurer and the ANC Provincial Deputy Secretary, as well as a member of the current interim provincial leadership at the time of her passing; notes that she will be remembered fondly for her love for the people, her commitment to fight for transformation and her despise for injustices; notes that she passed away while on duty, serving the people of South Africa in the NCOP strategic session and commiserates with the Gillion family, her friends and loved ones, her ANC comrades and colleagues in the NCOP and the Provincial Parliament as well as the staff and Parliament officials she worked with.

I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip.

I have been informed by the Chief Whip that all parties are in agreement that there would be no list of speakers, and that parties will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration on Motion of Condolence for a maximum of three minutes. I now recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Speaker. Hon members, the Premier, it was indeed with great shock and sadness that we heard of the sudden passing of our dear and beloved comrade, friend and colleague, Maurencia Gillion, on Tuesday, 28 February, and on behalf of the ANC Caucus, I would like to pass our deep condolences to the family and all her friends, comrades and colleagues. She literally died, as the motion indicates, with her boots on while attending an NCOP workshop in Cape Town.

I, like many others, could simply not believe that the news was actually true. There were no words to describe one's feelings. Only last year members came to hear with shock and sadness about the sudden passing of member Lorraine Botha, the former Chief Whip, and I would like to express on behalf of the ANC our thanks to Wendy Philander, the Chief Whip for her letter of condolences. Also, Lorraine Botha (verbatim) was an incredibly strong woman who left this earth too soon.

On Tuesday night I visited the family in Pelican Park and spent two hours with the ANC Chief Whip, hon Majodina, and other comrades and friends who had come to express their condolences and to comfort each other. It was

in the early hours of Wednesday morning, 1 March, that I could put at least some thoughts down and I wrote a poem, which I dedicated to Comrade Maurencia. It is called Maurencia and it goes like this:

“You said to me that your mom told you, that your mom taught you
‘My kind, kyk eerste na jou dak, dan jou policies, dan koop jy kos.’
and you did, a box of Rothmans, a two-litre Coke
and a fully charged phone
you organised food
you mobilised communities
you prepared for conferences
and you did what you thought was best
for our movement and our people
Go well my comrade sister
Hamba Kahle
Vaarwel”

Today we pay respect to one of our fallen comrades, a servant of the people, the province and her nation, a leader in the province and in the NCOP, a leader immensely proud of her rural roots. She was the Executive Mayor of the Overberg District Municipality. She served as a member of this Legislature from 2014 to 2019 and she served on the Health and Social Development Portfolio Committees.

Comrade Maurencia was also a Whip of the ANC during her service. Within the ANC she occupied and was elected to the position of our Deputy

Provincial Secretary from 2011 to 2015 and as the party's Provincial Treasurer from 2015 to 2019. She loved the ANC. Madiba was her hero and she died believing that together through all the joy and the pain, the despair and the hope, she still believed that our movement can become a better vehicle to transform our country.

At the time of her passing she served as a member of the Western Cape Interim Committee of the ANC. Last year, Maurencia lost her mother, the year before, and a number of family members. She had also lost her beloved Winston two years ago, and yet, she soldiered on.

She had unrivalled compassion for the people she served. She fought for the fishing communities and their rights to access the resource. She was a fiercely loyal person. She spoke her mind.

On the day hon Gillion passed on we heard actually the positive news that Minister Creecy had upheld the appeal of fishermen operating the chuckies in Struisbaai and Arniston. This would have brought that warm, special smile to your face because you truly lived and work for the people. Maurencia had a base. She was rooted in her community and in the organisation.

As the ANC, Premier, we will write to you this afternoon, and on behalf of the family apply for a Provincial State funeral, on behalf of the family.

I pray, Comrade Maurencia, that your beautiful soul will rest in eternal

peace.

†Rus sag onse Tietie, ons gaan nie rus nie. Ons sal aangaan om die werk vir 'n beter lewe, soos Madiba hom beywer het, daar te stel in ons land. [Rest in peace, our Tietie, we're not going to rest, we will continue to establish the work for a better life, as Madiba laboured for, in our country.]

Hamba Gahle, Maurencia.

†Vaarwel. [Goodbye.]

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore. I see the EFF, if you so wish.

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you, Speaker. The EFF would also like to share a few words of condolence with the family, friends, colleagues and also the comrades of the late hon Maurencia Gillion. She is remembered by many EFF members who she worked alongside in Government structures as a fearless fighter, when it came to fighting for the rights of the poor and the marginalised people in the Western Cape, and more so when it came to the people in Grabouw in the Overberg area.

The hon Gillion was one who fought for what is fair and just. She fought for

the oppressed, the poor, the marginalised, and that was all that mattered, no matter what political party you came from, if you love the poor and the black, you are amongst those special people who will be remembered for fighting for what is right. She is also remembered for her commitment to her late partner Winston, during his time of illness, right up until his last breath, among many other good things that she will be remembered for.

Once again, the EFF wishes the friends, family and comrades of the hon member strength in their hour of need. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I just want to check if hon August is online?

Mr S N AUGUST: [No audible reply.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Christians from the ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: [No audible reply.]

The SPEAKER: I now see the Freedom Front Plus, hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you. Speaker, on behalf of the Freedom Front Plus I wish to convey our sincere condolences to the family of hon member Maurencia Gillion who has passed away. I have not known her personally, but those who did, held her in very high esteem and regard and I have no

reason to doubt what they really feel today. Death follows us since the time we are born and between birth and death, we create our legacies and our memories and by all accounts she will be deeply mourned and missed by those who knew her.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Al Jama-ah, hon Brinkhuis?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Yes, hon Speaker, on behalf of the Al Jama-ah, we want to send our very sincere condolences to the family and the friends of hon Gillion. Myself personally also, like hon Marais mentioned, I did not know her personally but from just what I have heard, immaculate work that she has rendered over the years in Government and especially over the last few years in the NCOP. We are very saddened with her sudden passing and from what I have learnt that she passed on in the workplace with her boots on and it just shows the character of the person, that she was a people's person; she was a person that fought for the freedom of all South Africans and, yes, we are very, very saddened with the passing of hon Gillion and our sincere condolences to her family and her friends. Thank you very much, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. I now see the DA, hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. On behalf of the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, I want to express my deepest condolences to the Gillion and extended families, loved ones and colleagues of the late hon Maurencia Gillion. Today we want to celebrate and remember hon Gillion's long history of service to the people of the Western Cape, during her tenure as Overberg District Executive Mayor, member of the Provincial Parliament and as a permanent Western Cape delegate to the National Council of Provinces. She was a servant of the people until her last breath, as she so tragically passed away in the line of duty on Tuesday.

We will therefore remember her unrelenting spirit of service, her sacrifices and her enduring passion for the issues that affect the most vulnerable within our communities.

To the ANC and hon Gillion's colleagues in the NCOP we share in your grief, as we too had to say our goodbyes to a dear colleague and friend last year in the line of duty. To the DA in the Western Cape, or rather, the DA in the Western Cape sends our deepest sympathies to the ANC and hon Gillion's loved ones, her friends and her colleagues. Our thoughts are with you and we pray for strength during these most trying of times.

Hon Gillion, may your soul rest in eternal peace.

Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Members, can I please ask that you now rise as we observe a moment of silence.

[Moment of silence observed for the late hon Maurencia Gillion.]

The SPEAKER: You may be seated. Thank you very much, hon members.
Hon members, I now recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move:

That the following members be appointed in accordance with Standing Rule 24 to act as temporary presiding officers:

Maseko, L M

Van der Westhuizen, A P

Plato, D

Mvimbi, L L

Baku Baku-Vos, N G

Cassiem, A

Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members, are there any objections to the motion? No objections? Agreed to.

I recognise the Chief Whip.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, hon Speaker, I move:

That the House, in accordance with Rule 119(1) of the Standing Rules, appoints an Ad-hoc Committee to conduct oversight over the work of the Provincial Executive as it responds to the impact of the national energy crises on the Western Cape, including oversight over any part of the Provincial Executive, any provincial department, any provincial organ of state and any provincial entity involved in activities dealing with energy security;

That the Committee shall consist of 15 members, appointed in accordance with Rule 120 of the Standing Rules, with the membership allocated as follows:

- (a) Democratic Alliance: eight members;
- (b) African National Congress: two members;
- (c) Economic Freedom Fighters: one member;
- (d) GOOD: one member;

- (e) African Christian Democratic Party: one member;
- (f) Freedom Front Plus: one member;
- (g) Al Jama-ah: one member.

That the names of the members representing the political parties must be submitted to the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament as soon as possible for publication in an ATC;

That the Ad-hoc Committee shall have all the general powers conferred upon committees in accordance with the Standing Rules (Rule 91), as well as any other power, where applicable, conferred upon committees generally in accordance with the Standing Rules (Rules 77–95);

That Committee must report regularly to the House on its activities.

Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved? No objections? Agreed to.

I recognise the Chief Whip.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, hon Speaker, I move:

That an Ad-hoc Committee be appointed to give effect to Section 196(8)(b)(i) of the Constitution, 1996, read with Section 4(3)(b) of the Public Service Commission Act, 1997 (Act 46 of 1997), to consider applications and to recommend to the House a candidate for nomination by the Premier for appointment to serve on the Public Service Commission; and that the Ad-hoc Committee consists of 15 members, appointed in accordance with Rule 120 of the Standing Rules, with the membership allocated as follows:

- (a) Democratic Alliance: eight members;
- (b) African National Congress: two members;
- (c) Economic Freedom Fighters: one member;
- (d) GOOD: one member;
- (e) African Christian Democratic Party: one member;
- (f) Freedom Front Plus: one member;
- (g) Al Jama-ah: one member.

Further, that the names of the members representing the political parties must be submitted to the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament as soon as possible for publication in an ATC.

Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved? If not, motion agreed to.

The SPEAKER: I now recognise the Chief Whip.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move:

That, as agreed to by all parties in the Programming Authority meeting this past Tuesday, 28 February 2023, I move that the Subject for Discussion receive precedence.

Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. I understand that there was agreement, but I need to put the question to the House. Are there any objections to the motion being moved? No objections? Agreed to.

We will now deal with the Subject for Discussion in the name of the hon W F Philander, as printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Philander.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

The national energy crisis and the impact it has on the Western Cape.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. After more than 16 years of rolling blackouts and broken promises, South Africa is now at the

brink of Stage 8 blackouts and, worse, a potential collapse of the grid. Our country is facing an existential crisis, one which is not only a threat to our economic survival, but one that is a threat to the very fabric of our society. If the status quo remains it, it means further economic decline, higher levels of inflation and interest rates and more job losses. However, there is a saying, hope is the one thing that can help us get through the darkest of times.

Hon Speaker, our people are frustrated. They are dejected and they are desperate to see change and optimism during these times of strife and challenge and hope is possible. South Africa's decline is by no means the fault of the millions of South Africans who dream that democracy will bring a better life. We, the people do not ask much but simply for a National Government that does not protect the party interests above the interests of the people.

This is not the country that our parents fought for, and hon Speaker, to the ANC in the Opposition benches, be honest today. Are you happy with the trajectory that our country is taking? Are you indeed satisfied?

Hon Speaker, in the face of darkness, we see hope in the Western Cape's healthcare system, South Africa's healthcare system has already been through the wringer during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its challenges will persist the longer the abnormality of rolling blackouts remain a reality.

Hon Speaker, in the health sector, there are growing concerns about the

challenges that higher stages of load shedding pose, such as surgical backlogs, skyrocketing operating costs due to increased diesel procurement, and damage to life saving medical equipment during outages, among other serious challenges.

Indeed, the most vulnerable in our society has also not been spared by the ANC and Eskom-sponsored rolling blackouts but to the people of the Western Cape, today, I tell you that there is hope, because hope is the one thing that can help us get through the darkest of times. I welcome the Provincial Health Department embarking on Phase 1 of the 51-clinic Hybrid Inverter Turnkey Project, but, hon members, again, there is hope in the midst of darkness.

Through the Provincial Treasury's allocation of just over R1 billion to respond to the energy crisis, learners' education will be prioritised to buffer schools against rolling blackouts. Hope in the face of darkness is possible and it requires political will and transparency.

I therefore welcome the Premier's commitment that he, his Government, and the Western Cape Energy Council are ready to avail themselves for accountability to the proposed Ad-hoc Committee on the impact of loadshedding in the Western Cape Province, in the light of the National State of Disaster. This work is a testament to the urgency with which the DA-run Western Cape Provincial Government is approaching the energy crisis.

Honourable speaker, unlike what the ANC wants to say or think, this is not a boasting exercise; this is the reality – the stark contrast between a government that works and one that does not work. Hon Speaker, the ANC and their alliance partners will never take control of the Western Cape or else, like in the rest of the country, there will be nothing left.

The ANC has left us worse off, and hon Speaker, I want to encourage the residents of the Western Cape, think about the future of this country and what it could be if we unseat the ANC in 2024.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government is proactive, innovative and offering solutions to the biggest crisis of the day and I look forward to the inputs from all colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Order, members! I now see the hon Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: The ANC cautiously welcomes this debate today. Again, we acknowledge and appreciate the energy crisis faced by our country but we certainly hope that the DA will not use this opportunity as a cheap point-scoring exercise. When debating energy in our country today, it is important to remember where we come from.

Less than 30 years ago, only 51% of South Africans had access to electricity, 51% only. Today, the World Bank says more than 85% of South Africans have access to electricity – more than 85%. Today, USAID says that 95% of people living in urban areas... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr L L MVIMBI: ...have access to electricity, while the figure is 92% for rural areas. This is ANC service delivery. Nobody else brought about this. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

Mr L L MVIMBI: However, the ANC will also be the first to recognise that the crisis we face today in energy supply is due to a number of reasons. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, hon members, there is a... [Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: Firstly, no matter how much you try, you cannot ignore the global energy crisis that is taking place at the moment.

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, please take your seat.

Mr L L MVIMBI: As we speak... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, please take your seat. I am really sorry to do this. Hon members, there is a member on the floor, can we please allow hon Mvimbi to make his submission to the House. Interjections, as I indicated in the beginning, are not allowed as per Rule 40 in hybrid sessions, so can we please allow hon Mvimbi to continue. I see you, hon Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: However, the ANC will also be the first to recognise that the crisis we face today in energy supply is due to a number of reasons. Firstly, no matter how much we try, we cannot ignore the global energy crisis that is taking place at the moment. As we speak. Europe sits at the heart of the energy crisis and contrary to popular belief, the International Energy Agency says that the crisis did not start with the Russia/Ukraine War.

Secondly, macro economic policies in our country in the last three decades and supported by this Provincial Government, have seen the consistent cutting of expenditure on public goods and hence not enough funding was pumped into Eskom in the late 2000s, despite our country benefiting from the commodity boom at the time, but even in hindsight, we could say that governments will have spent more money on expansion, but public sentiment surrounding Eskom would not have been any better.

When only 50% of South Africa's population in South Africa was on the grid in the 1980s, James-Brent Styan in his book, titled *Blackout: The Eskom Crisis*, he wrote:

“Eskom had not learnt from the negative public response of the mid-1970 sentiments towards... Eskom hit an all-time low. The continued price hike to fund massive expansion, all extravagant in the public eye, were the last straw. The electricity utility became one of the most unpopular organisations in the country with media outlets accusing it of serious mismanagement.”

That was in the 1980s, so this problem is not a new problem.

Hon Speaker, we will be forgiven to think that Styan was writing about Eskom today but he was writing about Eskom in the 1980s. Eskom has always been a problem in this country. In fact, it is for this reason that it even got a name change into the late 90s.

Finally, the ANC will be the first to acknowledge the corruption at Eskom and the exploitation of mining companies, especially those selling coal to Eskom such as Glencore, have had a negative effect on our country, and funnily enough, nobody ever talks anything in this House about Glencore.

An HON MEMBER: Steinhoff.

Mr L L MVIMBI: But corruption at Eskom did not start now under the democratic Government. The Nationalist Party too, it used it as a corruption feeding throne and I know some of the National Party beneficiaries are sitting here with us today. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr L L MVIMBI: In their book, *Rogues Gallery*, Matthew Blackman and Nick Dall... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr L L MVIMBI: In their book, *Rogues Gallery*, Matthew Blackman and Nick Dall write how under the National Party two of Eskom's biggest power stations were deliberately built next to a coal mine owned by a small company, called Federale Mynbou, which was run by members of the Broederbond. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr L L MVIMBI: Federale Mynbou was consistently handed Government tenders by the National Party. [Interjections.] However, if people have evidence of corruption, not innuendos, not rumours, but evidence of corruption... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, can I please ask that you conclude; your time has expired.

Mr L L MVIMBI: They must not conduct TV interviews but go to the nearest police station. Speaker, this is the conduct that we find ourselves in as a country when it comes to the energy crisis.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mvimbi. Please take your seat.

Mr L L MVIMBI: We cannot ignore this content; we must work together in solving this. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Order members! [Applause.] Order members! Hon Mvimbi, can you please switch off your microphone. Thank you. Members, order. I now see hon Klaas.

†Mnr T KLAAS: Agbare Speaker, en die leiers, ons is hier om vir die mense te dien. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr T KLAAS: Hon Speaker, and the leaders, we are here to serve the people. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr T KLAAS: Speaker, it is now public knowledge that the ruling party has failed the people of South Africa when it comes to the issue of loadshedding, which continues to have negative impact on the economy and ordinary lives of the people of South Africa. It does not make sense for the South African

National Government to tell people of this country about the Economic Recovery Plan, while businesses continue to shut down and losing profit as a result of this energy crisis. Every time when business in this country loses profit, this results in employees being retrenched, which adds to the increased high unemployment rate that this country is currently experiencing. Electricity appliances of the people in their homes continue to get damaged as a result of on and off issues of electricity that moves in this stage.

Speaker, it is sad to know loadshedding in this country has been at least 25 years in the making from 1998. The national ruling party ignores advices and calls to unbundling of Eskom into generation, transmission and distribution, as was contained in the white paper *Eskom into Generation*. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members! Honourable!

Mr T KLAAS: It is reported that in 1990, only 35% of South Africa's households had electricity as a result of injustice of apartheid. When the ruling party assumed power in 1994, it was supposed to invest in the generation of energy continually so that 100% of households in the country can have access to electricity, but, as I have already mentioned above, the opposite is true. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr T KLAAS: Speaker, it is now clear that the energy crisis in this country is

going to be with us for the foreseeable future, at least until the National Ruling Party is removed from power by citizens of this country, who want to see peaceful and professionalised... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

Mr T KLAAS: Moreover there is the need for more electricity generation capacity. [Interjections.] Speaker, the responsibility to generate electricity must not pass to business and greedy municipalities, who will then sell into our people with exhaustive rates... because this in the long run will result in the total privatisation of electricity and become inaccessible to the other poor majority of our people. That was the case during apartheid.

Speaker, electricity generation is the sole responsibility of the National Government.

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, can I please ask that you conclude. Your time has expired, but I am going to allow you to just conclude.

Mr T KLAAS: Yes, I can conclude. Speaker, the mandate is clear. This Government must provide people of South Africa with reliable electricity effective immediately and if it fails, it must ... [Inaudible, speaking simultaneously.] [Time expired.] [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Klaas, please take your seat. Thank you, hon

Klaas. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

Thank you. Order, members! Order, members! Members! [Interjections.]

Hon Klaas, members, please calm down! [Interjections.] Order, members!

Alright, members, I now see hon Bosman. [Interjections.] Members, please, there is a member on the floor.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and I judge by the laughing reaction from the members of the Opposition that that is how serious they take this energy crisis.

Hon Speaker, hon Mvimbi's revisionist history reminded us today that crime is the cause and effect of the energy crisis that we suffer. As the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Community Safety in this Province, I am particularly glad that this House is considering this topic today... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: ...because the matter before us is a criminal one. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order members! Members on my left-hand side and on my right-hand side. There is a member on the floor.

Mr G BOSMAN: We now know from multiple sources including insiders, whistleblowers and some of the country's finest journalists, that this crisis that affects every citizen of this province so deeply has been caused by criminal syndicates, which have penetrated the highest level of our National Government as high as the Ministerial Office.

Billions have been stolen every month. Our most critical infrastructure is disappearing before our eyes and, worst of all, nothing is being done to stop this. The energy crisis is both the cause and effect of an atmosphere of criminality in our country that trickles down right from the top.

These relentless power cuts brought to us by the African National Congress are not only the result of rampant looting by National Ministers, but they serve to promote even more crime out on the streets. The most recent crime statistics left me aghast, murder up by 10%; robbery up by 21,2%; attempted sexual offences up by 45,6%.

I hope the members opposite are as shocked as I was, because these statistics show us that the people of South Africa have known for a long time that crime in our country is out of control, and it gets even worse when it is dark. The statistics show us that predictably, the deployment of LEAP officers reduces crime but the main mandate of policing still falls to SAPS...
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr G BOSMAN: ...and SAPS is failing, even in the dark. They are under-resourced, demoralised, and they suffer from a dearth of leadership, from Minister Bheki Cele, who is hopefully on his way out. Loadshedding has been a final blow to their diminished capability.

Through their own submission, Captain Frederick van Wyk from SAPS in the Western Cape recently admitted, and I quote:

“Communication systems are often dependent on a power supply and the ones in use by us are not excluded from this. This means that when residents are victims of crimes, they cannot contact police stations during load shedding, because the telephone systems are not operable during power cuts.”

To put it another way, if someone breaks into your house, member Windvogel, through you, hon Speaker, during loadshedding, you cannot call the SAPS in Swellendam. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr G BOSMAN: On top of this, when members of the public physically go to police stations to report crime and seek assistance from the police they are met with locked doors; locked doors because some police stations have decided to close during load shedding, or they offer limited services. In some cases they even call the City of Cape Town's Law Enforcement, police

stations calling DA Government Law Enforcement to support them.

This is not an indictment, hon Speaker, on the many brave men and women who wear their SAPS uniforms on the streets every day, even in the dark, but it is an indictment on our National Government and every Minister that has handed them an impossible situation that keeps on worsening. What we are facing in South Africa is a collapse of the rule of law, one which has been facilitated by those at the highest levels of National Government.

Corrupt politicians and their cronies have been allowed to loot and steal for so long that they know no different. Yes, the ANC knows no different and the consequences of the actions are decimating our ability to build our economies to look after our people and to fight crime. Is it any wonder that the people of South Africa are so incredibly angry? The truth is they should be. The ANC criminals have stolen everything at Eskom, and now they are keeping the lights off to allow criminals to rob us further in the dark.

Speaker, this crisis is one which we must solve and I have no doubt that the ANC members opposite will spend much of this debate attempting to obfuscate, give us history lessons. They will accuse this Government of failing to fix loadshedding as if their party did not cause it. They will do everything they can to distract us and we saw that from the history lesson member Mvimbi was trying to give us, through you, hon Speaker, because they want to downplay the current predicament. They will do this because they have no choice because the truth is they have been sent here to defend a

party who is solely responsible for the crisis we are in. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: As we proceed this debate, hon Speaker, let us do our best to consider how we might best protect our citizens from this crisis but let us also remain clear-headed and conscious of how we got here, the criminality at the highest level of government, aided and abetted and encouraged by key figures of the ANC.

Speaker, it is abundantly clear that this province and this country need an urgent solution to fix this problem. We cannot fix anything without power and we cannot fix the energy crisis while the ANC remains in charge, because even in the dark they still see it fit to steal. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Gillion, hon Bosman. [Interjections.] Order, members! Members, hon Marran. Members, I now see hon Nkondlo. Can I please ask, hon Nkondlo, before you start? Members, can I please ask that you allow the speaker on the floor to make his or her presentation? Hon Nkondlo?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Ndiyabulela Somlomo, Greetings to everybody in the House and indeed a sad day for this Western Cape Provincial Parliament that we had to start this House with another loss within a very short space of time of one of our members, someone like ourselves who have been given a

responsibility to remain a representative and the voice of the community.

We continue to send our condolences to these women that have left us.

Speaker, as we sit here today on this very important debate that seeks to look at the current crisis that we face ourselves as a country at this time, it is important to always wish, but in our wishes, as member Mvimbi has said here, we know the problem and the cancer of political parties, especially during this time, when everybody is about to protect their seat, that at most we engage these debates highly – at times – disingenuous and therefore try to paralyse the public in terms of providing them the facts about the situation that they have to deal with, of a country that everybody has got a responsibility to build.

We say this, Speaker, that today we talk about an electricity and energy crisis in our country, where indeed our Premier sat on the President's Coordinating Council which discussed the energy crisis, and National Government's response to it recently now at the end of January. The Premier attended the Cabinet Lekgotla where again the energy crisis, the need for a just transition, and an energy-mix approach to addressing the crisis were discussed in detail, and this is an understanding that if you go and you listen across and you open your televisions and social media across the world, most countries are grappling with energy challenges in the world. What is now needed for each sphere of Government to do, is to ensure that the energy crisis is defeated.

At the provincial level in 2019 we heard of the solar PV uptake, while in 2020 we heard that 23 of the municipalities in the Western Cape support the small scale embedded energy. Four years later and even today we have not heard about a single megawatt produced by this Provincial Government through these projects. In 2021, the Municipal Energy Resilience Plan was announced with great fanfare and more than 2000 days later, and after spending more than R100 million even today, we do not hear of a single megawatt produced by this program. Actually, MEC Wenger was here the other day telling us about what they have achieved thus far. There is actually a study here, a feasibility study here and a plan there. Where are the megawatts? [Interjections.]

But the ANC and the people of the Western Cape will not hold their breath, Speaker, among the details provided to the Premier at the Presidential Council, as well as the Cabinet Lekgotla, he would have heard, if he was listening, that National Government's plan to tackle the crisis from the Energy Action Plan to the specific programmes that the Department of Minerals and Energy has for provinces, the Electrification Master Plan will help ensure optimisation of available technology solutions, as well as improve value for money.

The plan also seeks to achieve universal access for all communities through the rollout of grid and non-grid electrification technologies. To date, over eight million additional indigenous households have been electrified through connection to the grid and the further nearly 2 000 through non-grid

technologies. This speaks directly to the point made by hon Mvimbi earlier on, about the numbers that we have to deal with as our population is increasing, and I am sure this Parliament has been lamenting about this reality that is affecting this particular country and this province.

Whilst we assist with the energy crisis, it is very difficult to forget the many people in our country who, with or without loadshedding, still do not have access to electricity. The DA cares less about the poor, and ensuring more people are added to the grid, actually to expand and maintenance of the current network and the challenges of this as part of building an inclusive society. All they really care about are those who are connected to the grid before 1994. The Department of Minerals and Energy is addressing the suspensive conditions from NERSA to ensure that the procurement of the 2 500 megawatts of nuclear energy is completed by 2024, in line with the MTSF commitments. Eskom can guarantee 26 000 megawatts on a reliable basis from its 81 units. 6 000 megawatts is what is at risk and while much effort must be put into maintenance and restoring of additional units, 4 000 to 6 000 of megawatts new capacity must be created.

The only way to end loadshedding as soon as possible is to restore the additional units at Eskom to produce this 4 000 to 6 000 capacity, while in the long term the new capacity outside of Eskom, especially those of independent power producers, not only the one that the City of Cape Town's populist idea of buying electricity from private producers will be beneficial. This will take time to connect to the grid, and people, as the colleagues from

the other side are raising, want electricity now. So to end loadshedding in the now, through the ANC-led Government it is having, it is prioritising and fixing Eskom with speed, but, Speaker, the end to loadshedding is not a simple exercise.

In managing the energy crisis the Inter-Ministerial Committee has established nine work-streams. These are important because, amongst others, they address issues of performance of plans, policy issues, expediting connection, emergency procurement, improving demand management, law enforcement, communication and distribution, but also let us report on what National Government has already done to address this crisis. It has allowed for private investment by removing the license requirements for generation projects, Bid Window 5 has seen 19 projects, signing agreements totalling to an additional 1 800 megawatts. The Embedded Generation Projects, such as the Strategic Infrastructure Project, have been gazetted, thereby reducing the timeframe for environmental authorisation to 57 days. An additional 300 megawatts has been procured from the Southern African Power Pool. NERSA concurrence has been received for the ministerial determination of over 14 000 megawatts of new energy, of new generation capacity from wind, solar and battery storage. Private sector generation projects have increased to over 100 projects contributing more than 9 000 megawatts of new capacity and which will be connected to the grid this year.

There are turnaround plans for six power stations to restore additional capacity. Actually here in the Western Cape already there is a Battery Energy

Storage System... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, can you please conclude?

MS N D NKONDLO: ...of R11 billion that includes West Coast and Cape Winelands. So, Speaker, the ANC is doing its work, and it has had its shoulders on the task to ensure it deals with the energy crisis.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo.

MS N D NKONDLO: I thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you. Order members! Hon Murray, I see you.

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, we have already experienced 60 total days of loadshedding this year. This exceeds the number of days of loadshedding we experienced for the entire four year period of 2016 to 2019, and I feel it important to remind members of the Opposition, through you Speaker, that loadshedding started in 2007, which is 13 years after the ANC was elected.

The reality is that residents are the ones that foot the bill for Government failure, particularly in our most vulnerable communities. We know this because the direct price of electricity is passed to consumers through exorbitant tariff hikes. The irony is that the President expects us to commend

him for calling off NERSA's nearly 20% tariff hikes while he cannot even keep the lights on. At the same time under the ANC-led National Government, residents are also struggling to put food on the table and there is a growing sense of hopelessness, particularly among our young, unemployed people. This is heart-breaking.

Despite this, the DA-led Western Cape remains a pillar of hope. According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey, of the 169 000 jobs that were created nationally, last quarter, 167 000 were created right here in the Western Cape. That means 98.8% of new jobs in the country were created here in the Western Cape. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms C MURRAY: Speaker, just imagine... [Interjection.]

Order, members! Hon Murray, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP: Yes, Speaker, I rise in terms of Rule 39, Speaker, it is very – we cannot hear the speaker on the floor. I can understand that the ANC is completely embarrassed to hear what they hear today, but we would like to follow the debate and I am sure the people of the Western Cape as well. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you very much. I hear your point of order, hon Chief Whip. In terms of the decorum, members, there was a member on the floor, the Chief Whip rose on a point of order. The point of order, hon Chief Whip, I will manage the House and when it becomes uncontrollable, I will enforce the relevant Rules. Members, I am allowing, because it is a political debate, I am allowing for the debate not to be one-sided, but can I please ask you to please respect the person on the floor, so that we allow that member to get their message across. [Interjection.]

Alright. [Interjection.] Hon Marran, if you want to address the Chair, hon Marran, when you want to address the Chair, can you please get up and then do so, but this, colleagues, we started off in such a dignified manner, can I please ask that we do not degenerate the House today? I mean, we are all adults here; we are all representing different views and have different views. Can I please ask that you respect one another, so that you can get your message across, so that we do not, so that the decorum of the House is maintained.

Hon Murray, please continue. Hon Marran, is that a point of order?

Mr P MARRAN: Yes, Speaker. The hon Murray is misleading this House, when she speaks to the decent jobs that the DA is creating. The same DA... [Inaudible.] [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon Marran, that is not a point a order. Please

take your seat.

Mr P MARRAN: ...minimum wage, which is equal to the Old Age Pension Grant; R1 800 a month. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Marran! Hon, Murray, I see you.

Ms C MURRAY: Speaker, just imagine what could be achieved under a country governed by the Democratic Alliance – the DA-led National Government, it has a very nice ring to it. [Interjections.] It is abundantly clear to me that the DA will not only create jobs in national government, but it will also keep the lights on. I say this because the Western Cape Government is going above and beyond its mandate and acting with urgency.

During the Premier's State of the Province Address, it was explained that R1 billion has been allocated to address loadshedding in the province. This will secure diesel fuel, buffer schools from loadshedding, alleviate the impact on poor households... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray, please take your seat. Hon Marran, every single Speaker that has been on the floor you have directly engaged with. Can I please ask that you respect the decorum of the House and respect the member on the floor in order for that member to have an opportunity to make the presentation to the House?

Hon Murray, I will make sure that you are afforded the opportunity like every other member in this House. Please continue.

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you Speaker. This will secure diesel fuel, better protect our schools from loadshedding, alleviate the impact on poor households, assist SMMEs, and implement energy alternatives. To that end R89 million in emergency funding for municipalities has been allocated to procure emergency diesel generators for water treatment, water distribution and wastewater systems during prolonged loadshedding.

Speaker, the DA will keep the lights on. I am confident of this as the DA-led City of Cape Town is also implementing a three-phased procurement plan to address loadshedding. This includes the procurement of new generation capacity from independent power producers or IPPs, and I am pleased to note that 200 megawatts procurement of renewable energy was concluded last year.

The Mayor of Cape Town has further confirmed that the City is working with the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research on grid integration studies to determine when and where these IPPs will feed power into Cape Town's grid. It will keep the lights on for residents by ensuring that every cent spent leads to the establishment of efficient systems adding more power to our grid. The second phase of the three-phased procurement for loadshedding protection is called the Power Heroes Programme. It is quite innovative and I think we should all pay attention.

The initiative will pay residents for voluntary energy savings through the automated and remote switching off of power during peak times, and finally, Speaker, the City's third phase of the procurement plan is the launch of the Dispatchable Energy Tender. This is expected to yield around 500 megawatts for the grid. Clearly, the DA will keep the lights on and a DA-led National Government would do so by employing experienced engineers and managers to run the various entities of Eskom and stopping any political interference in the energy sector. It would unbundle Eskom into separate transmission, distribution, generation entities, allowing the transmission to be operated by an independent grid operator, while privatising as many entities as possible.

We have already written a Private Member's Bill to enable the unbundling. We will also be ramping up security at all key Eskom sites and dealing decisively and harshly with saboteurs. I said before and I will say it again, the DA will keep the lights on, but, Speaker, the President's silence over the appointment of a new electricity Minister and the reshuffling of the National Cabinet is deafening. It is deafening, Speaker, because we are facing almost Stage 6 every day with a looming risk of Stage 8 at any minute.
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Order! Order members! Hon Murray, you may continue.

Ms C MURRAY: We face the risk of Stage 8 at any moment with no clear

solutions from National in sight. We also do not know who the next CEO of Eskom will be. With De Ruyter gone, who was the last who at the very least committed to clean governance, we must make sure that we do not revert to the days where corruption goes unnoticed and unaddressed.

It is also quite telling that Ministers Gwede Mantashe and Fikile Mbalula have publicly attacked De Ruyter in the media for his comments about corruption at Eskom, drawing his integrity into question for simply being honest. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members order!

Ms C MURRAY: What is more, Pravin Gordhan, the Minister, has come out publicly and admitted Mr de Ruyter has spoken, he admitted that De Ruyter spoke to him about the corruption that was being experienced and he did nothing, unsurprisingly – nothing! [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Members. Hon Murray, please take your seat. [Interjection.] No, hon Kama, please take your seat. Hon members, can you please; I mean, I have said this in the beginning. You cannot drown out the speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon members, please, hon Marran, I am addressing the House. Can I please ask that you allow hon Murray to continue, this interjections and running commentary continuously is out of order.

If you do not like what the member is saying then use other mechanisms to rebut that, but this continuous running order will not be entertained any longer. Hon Murray, you can continue.

Ms C MURRAY: This confirms what everyone in the country already knows, that the ANC is a criminal organisation and the failure of Eskom is directly linked to ANC members... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray, hon Murray, please take your seat. Hon Murray, please take your seat. Hon Mvimbi, is that a point of order?

MS L L MVIMBI: I just want to ask, is hon Murray willing to take a question?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: No!

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray, are you prepared to take a question? [Interjection.]

Ms C MURRAY: No. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray is not prepared to take a question. Members, please! Members on both the right and my left, please, please can you allow

hon Murray to continue? Hon Murray.

Ms C MURRAY: This confirms what everybody in the country already knows. The ANC is a criminal organisation and the failure of Eskom is directly linked to ANC members at the very highest level who are using Eskom as a piggy-bank.

Speaker, South Africa's future is looking increasingly bleak, but we cannot sit by idly as the lights go out altogether. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray, please conclude. Your time has expired. [Interjections.] Members, on my – members! Please allow hon Murray. Hon Marran and hon... [Interjection.]

Hon Marran! [Interjection.] Hon Marran! Colleagues, can I please ask hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip to please assist me, because for your, keep your members – hon members on my left, I mean I am on the floor and you are continuing. Hon Marran, I am now cautioning you. Hon Marran, I am not cautioning you. [Interjection.]

Hon Deputy Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Hon Speaker, in terms of Rule 60, I heard member Marran going on about “she called us corrupt”, but I have never heard member Murray actually mentioning a person's name of this House...

[Interjections.] ...a member in this House, and in terms of the Rules, we cannot allow people to just say across the benches... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Deputy Chief Whip... Hon Marran?

Mr P MARRAN: Speaker, the ANC is nothing without its members. The ANC is nothing without its members. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Marran, is that a point of order?

Mr P MARRAN: Yes.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr P MARRAN: She called the ANC corrupt, meaning that we members of the ANC are criminals, meaning that we are criminals. [Interjection.] She is calling us criminals. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon Marran, that is not... That is not a point of order. [Interjection.]

Members! Members! Hon Nkondlo. [Interjection.] Hon Marran, hon Nkondlo! Hon Marran, that is not a point of order, and secondly, when you address a member of the House, they are hon members. It is not a “he” and “she”, so can I please ask that we respect one another and that we continue with the

debate? Hon Murray, can you please conclude? [Interjection.]

No, that is not a point of order and that is not against the Rules.
[Interjections.] Hon Bans! [Interjections.] Hon Kama?

Mr M KAMA: Well, thank you very much, Speaker, I think I want to raise this point with you so you can interact with it because I think I heard the member saying “the ANC is an organisation of criminals”.

An HON MEMBER: Uh-huh, correct.

Mr M KAMA: ...and now I, more often when you want to invite, when you...
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: The DA is an organisation of... [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, there is a member – there is one of your members on the floor.

Mr M KAMA: ...and when you Speaker... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi.

Mr M KAMA: ...and when you, Speaker, at different times want to recognise us, you say the ANC, you know, so I would, perhaps if you can ask the

member if when she was saying “the ANC is an organisation of criminals”, is she referring to any member that is in this House, because the reality, whether one likes it or not, there are ANC members in this House and we cannot keep quiet when someone is saying the ANC is an organisation of criminals, when we are not criminals ourselves. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, is that a point of order?

Mr C M DUGMORE: Thank you, Speaker. I would also like on a point of order in terms of our Rules, to ask you to make a ruling whether the word “criminals” in the context of referring to political parties is parliamentary or not, and for now I believe, I personally believe that it is not parliamentary, so I would like to ask if the member is prepared to withdraw that comment while you make a ruling at a later point. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you honourable, hon Dugmore. I did not hear hon Murray referring to any member of this House and therefore [Interjection.]

Hon members, I am on the floor. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Hon Murray – I did not hear that hon Murray referred to any member of this House, and therefore that is not a point of order. Can I please ask, hon Deputy Chief Whip, is that a new point of order, because I am not

entertaining any further points of orders on this matter?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, Speaker, I am rising on the fact that member Dugmore has asked you to make a ruling on whether one can ask whether political parties are called criminals, and when you do make such a ruling, I want you to take into consideration the Jacob Zuma court case, where the Court ruled that you are allowed to call someone a thief in terms of SMSs, but also the fact that a political party does not have a *dignitas* in terms of law and therefore they cannot be offended legally. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Deputy Chief Whip, I have already ruled on that point. Hon Murray, please continue. [Interjection.]

Hon Murray, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a point of order, is that a new point of order, hon Lekker?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Perhaps Mr Speaker, we seem to not to understand the Rules. I am rising on the point of order because I have seen you have gone to a point where you allow the Deputy Chief Whip to tell you how to do your job. I am rising on a point of order so that you are mindful not to be told how to do your job and you must be precise and explain just that, because we are wasting too much time. Instead of focusing on the statement by member Murray, you are focusing on people who think they know how, better than you. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Chief Whip, I have ruled so I am going to continue with hon Murray.

Hon Murray, please note that your time has expired. You were on the floor concluding.

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you Speaker. In conclusion, I call on the residents of this province and this country to vote for the Democratic Alliance in the upcoming election and ensure that we oust the ANC from the Union Buildings once and for all...

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms C MURRAY: ...because we will be delighted... [Time expired.]
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Murray, please take your seat, your time has expired. [Interjections.]

Hon members, I now see hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Speaker, am I audible?

The SPEAKER: You are audible, if the members in the House can just quiet

down. Members, there is a member on the floor on the hybrid system, please allow hon Brinkhuis to make his presentation.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we cannot ignore the fact that loadshedding negatively affects us all irrespective to which party one belongs to. The Al Jama-ah Party has previously lauded the Western Cape for its initiative towards energy independence and that the Province would take the lead to put an end to loadshedding.

Our province is indeed affected and we cannot afford further job losses. If the energy crisis worsens, we should come to the rescue of everyone and thus put in place what can assist to overcome this almost immediately. One of the sectors hardest hit is the SMMEs, and if they are forced out of business, then they have a snowballing effect that we should try to avoid.

We welcome the Province's plans to ensure access to water, education and business connectivity during loadshedding. The hon Premier has revealed in his SOPA that money will be sourced from Provincial Treasury for its massive plans towards energy independence. Al Jama-ah would like the Province to be transparent when it does its grand planning on how and where it spends the millions on backup generators. There should be a proper oversight on municipalities on how they distribute municipal services during loadshedding. We are aware that there are huge gaps between our schools in terms of resources and financial capabilities to operate against the odds of

loadshedding. The more established businesses and citizens have purchased inverters to ensure the continuing operation of their businesses. Many small businesses have and is suffering ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Brinkhuis, can I please ask that you conclude? Your time has expired.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you. Many small businesses have and are suffering enormous losses. What assistance is there for them? We remind the Province that transparency is a critical tool... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. [Interjection.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: ...when rolling out energy structures and when private companies come on board. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Can you please mute the member.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. I now see the Minister, Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, imagine the following situation. You oversleep in the morning and realise you are going to be late for work. You also know that you did not do your job for the last 30 years and you did not prepare for the meeting or the presentation you are going to be late for. You know that today is the day you are going to be uncovered for the incompetent and unqualified person you are. That is how the people in the ANC feel today.

Hon Speaker, corruptness and incompetence is not a disaster in itself, but it can most certainly cause a disaster, Speaker, and that is what is happening in South Africa at this moment. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: We are experiencing the disaster of ANC Government. After three decades, it seems that the wheels of the National ANC Government is coming off.

Hon Speaker, we do not have electricity and we also do not or, if the electricity is declared a disaster, then, hon Speaker, education must be declared a disaster; health must be declared a disaster; policing, a disaster; the military, a disaster, the international, a disaster. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, the economic disaster, and we have a general state-owned-entity disaster, but the real disaster, hon Speaker, is the ANC-Government disaster in South Africa. That is the real disaster.

Hon Speaker, in the Western Cape we are also experiencing the consequences of the ANC disaster. Our municipalities are all struggling to provide basic services due to the extended loadshedding the ANC has delivered for us. Once we go above level four, municipalities struggle to purify enough water and then they cannot refill water reservoirs to the correct levels. This then causes a drop of pressure in the water pipes and water distribution becomes a problem. If water levels are then restored, once power is restored, there is a huge risk to the pipe burst as the system is balancing itself.

Speaker, it is not too difficult to understand the link between electricity and water, but then one can never assume that the ANC understands anything. The ANC still does not understand the link between economy and people paying tax for Government, and Government using the tax money to provide services to the people. This creates an environment for business sector to employ more people, resulting in more tax. All of this should translate into more tax money for Government who can then invest in better services and better public infrastructure such as roads, dams and until recently, electricity

supply.

Speaker, the Western Cape Government understands these things. This is why we made R88 million available for emergency generators to our municipalities, so that we can provide basic services to the poorest of the poor, the only province in South Africa that supports municipalities. Why? Because we care!

The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre [Interjections.] has also developed an emergency blackout plan for the province, still absent from the National Government and eight other provinces.

Hon Speaker, loadshedding also disrupt sewerage works or the function of sewerage works in our towns and cities. The systems are designed to have continuous water flow and if disruptive we see blockages and eventually spills over into environment. Hon Speaker, this is a health risk to our people and it is bad for the environment.

†Agb Speaker, die President kondig 'n ANC *electricity* onbeholpenheid ramp aan op 9 Februarie. Dit neem die ANC twee weke om die regulasies af te kondig. Dit is soos wanneer ons na 'n vuur staan en kyk vir twee weke en ons doen niks, agb Speaker. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Agb Speaker, die rampregulasies wys vir my daar is 'n slang in die gras. Niks wat afgekondig is kan deur bestaande wetgewing hanteer word nie. Die

regulasies gaan vir Eskom toelaat, deur Minister Mantashe, om sy kragboot in te bring sonder omgewingsgoedkeuring. Die regulasies gaan toelaat dat Eskom sonder enige gevolgde besoedeling in die lug kan inpomp. So, agb Speaker, die ANC kondig 'n elektrisiteitsramp aan om sodoende [Tussenwerpsels.] die omgewingswetgewing te omseil.

Agb Speaker, die ANC het amper alle staatsinstansies in hierdie land afgebreek. Lyk my hulle oog is nou daarop om die omgewing af te breek.

[Hon Speaker, the President announced an ANC electricity incompetence disaster on 9 February. It takes the ANC two weeks to announce the regulations. It is like when we stand looking at a fire and for two weeks we do nothing, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, the disaster regulations show us there is a snake in the grass. Nothing that was announced can be handled by existing legislation. The regulations are going to allow Eskom through Minister Mantashe to bring in his own powership without environmental approval. The regulations will allow that Eskom can pump pollution into the air without any consequences. So, hon Speaker, the ANC announces an electricity disaster to [Interjections.] sidestep the environmental legislation.

Hon Speaker, the ANC has almost broken down almost all state institutions in this country. It seems they are now aiming at breaking down the environment.]

Hon Speaker, there is a solution to the ANC disaster. No new legislation or Ad Hoc Committees or special advisers or war rooms are needed. No new Ministers have to be appointed. [Interjections.] The solution is called an election and there is one coming in 2024 and I call on all the people in the Western Cape, save yourselves and vote the ANC out of power. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Bredell. [Interjections.] Hon members, hon member Minister Fernandez, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, if I may.

I did not wish to disrupt my colleague whilst he was speaking, but I am certain that I heard the hon member Dugmore say to the hon Minister Bredell, "You are corrupt." I would like you to check with Hansard [Interjections.] and follow up on that as a point of order. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Fernandez, please take your seat. Hon member Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, before you go, did you – is that a point or order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: [Interjections.] Yes, it is a point of order.

The SPEAKER: Okay, what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: My point of order is to respond, hon Speaker, if you request me to. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, okay. That is not a point of order. I was [Interjections.] going – hon members! Hon ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Clarify?

The SPEAKER: Yes. Hon members – sorry, that is not a point of order, I am going to give you an opportunity, hon member Dugmore, to ask if you in fact did refer to the hon Minister Bredell as corrupt?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I did refer to the hon Minister Bredell as corrupt because in all his Local Government decisions [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... he is corrupt [Interjections.] and he corrupts the legislation and he corrupts the law [Interjections.] and that is why I said he is corrupt.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon member Dugmore, that is [Interjections.], that is against the Rules. [Interjections.] Can you please withdraw that statement. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, I would like you to investigate whether corruption means only the theft of public money, but the corruption of legislation and laws, which I am arguing he's guilty of – I do not see it as unparliamentary. [Interjections.] I see that he is corrupting the legislation.

The SPEAKER: Hon – okay, hon ... [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: That is in my definition [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: ... Dugmore, I am asking you to withdraw that. If you have – I have now made a ruling – hon member Dugmore. [Interjections.] Hon member Dugmore, if you – members, [Interjections.] if you are not prepared to withdraw then there are other avenues that that you can follow, or if you are not happy with the ruling, but you, if you are referring to hon Minister Bredell as corrupt, that is unparliamentary and I ask you to withdraw.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Okay. Hon Speaker, I am arguing that in his conduct [Interjections.] he is corrupting legislation. So I do not, I do not want to, I am not saying that MEC Bredell as far as I know has stolen money, but I argue that is corrupt ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: That is ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... because he corrupts the legislation ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore. [Interjections.] Hon member, please take your seat. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, please take your seat.

Hon member Dugmore, there was a point of order that hon member Fernandez, the Minister rose on a point of order to say that she heard that you referred to hon Minister Bredell as corrupt. I allowed you an opportunity to say if you in fact did say that hon Minister Bredell is corrupt.

You then got up and you said you did say so. That is unparliamentary. I am asking you to please withdraw that. [Interjections.] The fact that you are justifying what you meant is not part of the Rules, that is unparliamentary to refer on the integrity of any member of this House as corrupt and for that reason I ask you to withdraw.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I withdraw and I give notice that I will bring a substantive motion to back up why I believe that in terms of implementation of legislation he acts corruptly.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you. So you have withdrawn. [Interjections.]

I now want to move on members. I see the hon member Marais. Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, is that a point of order?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Yes, hon Speaker.

Hon there must also withdraw – hon member ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, can you speak ...[Interjections.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is a speaker on the floor. Can I please ask that you speak to me.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Hon member Murray, hon member Murray must withdraw also because she called the ANC [Interjections.] corrupt.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is a member on the floor. [Interjections.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members on my right-hand side ...[Interjections.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... there is a member on the floor, can I please ...[Interjections.]

†Me N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: ... jou mense raas te veel. Jou mense raas te veel. [Tussenwerpsels.] DA raas.

[Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: ...your people are making too much noise. Your people are making too much noise. [Interjections.] DA makes noise.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, that is not a point of order. the political party is not – you can say a political party is corrupt, but you cannot refer to a member or on the integrity of a member. [Interjections.]

Alright, I now – hon members, can please ask that you ...

An HON MEMBER: She said you make. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, can I – okay, in order for us to continue can I ask, hon member Murray, did you refer [Interjections.] – hon members!

Hon member Murray, can I please ask if you referred to any member of this House?

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, I am trying to find the exact words but no, I did not refer to a single person in this House. What I said and I quote:

"This confirms what everyone in the country already knows, that the ANC is ..." ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Murray, you do not need to justify it. I am asking you did you refer to any member of this House?

Ms C MURRAY: No, I referred to ANC members at the highest level.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Are you at the highest level? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much, hon member Murray. Hon member Murray did not refer to any member of this House, but I will refer to Hansard and come back to the House. [Interjections.]

Thank you, hon members, I now see the hon members Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, hon members, we can without exception agree

that the current energy crisis is not an act of God, but an act of greed.

[Interjections.]

It has opened golden opportunities for further taxes being imposed on already overburdened taxpayers to finance Eskom. It has also created six figure bank accounts for certain people and our health services is in a crisis because of money diverted to save our electricity, and while the people are fed-up, those with political contexts are not fed-up, they are overfed.

This country has been colonised by ruthless cartels and in spite of our best efforts and intentions, the Western Cape will not escape an economic implosion if loadshedding continues.

†In die township sê die mense vir my, "Mr Marais, Ramaphosa praat van SONA, SONA, SONA, ons sit SONA kos, SONA *electricity*, SONA werk, SONA 'n toekoms, SONA intelligente leiers." [In the township the people say to me, "Mr Marais, Ramaphosa talks of SONA, SONA, SONA, we sit SONA food, SONA electricity, SONA work, SONA a future, SONA intelligent leaders."]

So they take SONA is "without". They think SONA means "without". The Vryheidsfront Plus do not have all the answers and I do not think a party can stand up and say, I have all the answers. [Interjections.] Collectively we might find the answer.

So do not slam the members in this House, no matter which side you are on. We are in a crisis and when the ship is sinking you do not attack the captain. Neither do you worry who steers the ship, you all start bailing out water.

I ask of you let us all bail out the water so that this country does not sink into an economic implosion.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: And I do not have all the answers ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. Can you please conclude.
[Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Yes, sir. [Interjections.]

†Ek wil net in Afrikaans afsluit. [Lag.] [I just want to conclude in Afrikaans.] [Laughs.]

†Die SPEAKER: Oukei, ek gaan vir jou geleentheid gee.

[The SPEAKER: Okay, I'm going to give you the opportunity.]

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Die Vryheidsfront sê kom ons staan saam en breek weg.

[Mr P J MARAIS: The Freedom Front says let us stand together and break away.]

You know when a boat sinks you jump into a ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you ...[Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: ... build a smaller boat and [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais, please take your seat, your time ...[Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: The Western Cape is that smaller boat.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Let us break away.

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Thank you, hon member Marais. I now see the hon member America.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, during the President's State of the Nation Address he announced a national state of disaster and the appointment of a Minister of Electricity to respond to the current energy crisis. It has been 21 days, no

plan, no action, *dololo*. [Interjections.]

This signals that the ANC National Government is ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr D AMERICA: ... directionless when it comes to implementing the necessary ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr D AMERICA: ... action to turn this disaster around.]. For years ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr D AMERICA: ... the DA in the Western Cape has been consistent in calling on the ANC National Government to empower capable municipalities and provincial governments to free up generation capacity by bringing independent power producers on board, dismantling Eskom's monopoly on power generations and easing regulation. These calls were met with silence as the country spiralled from one stage of rolling blackouts to the next.

Hon Speaker, constant power cuts have begun to have dramatic and drastic effects on our provincial infrastructure, costing the taxpayer more money to

repeat damaged public property, such as water and sewerage pumps.

More than this, a reliable supply of electricity is one of the most vital prerequisites to achieving our goals of job creation, service delivery and ultimately economic growth.

Hon Speaker, as we have witnessed the impact of loadshedding going beyond living in the dark, the ANC-sponsored power blackouts have caused untold damage to our rail operations in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] Trains not running on time or being cancelled without notice. This is how the ANC Government treats our people. Add to this electrical cables have become more vulnerable to theft. In fact loadshedding has greatly enhanced cable theft.

The damage to the economy is well-documented, but we are seeing first-hand the damage which can result to broken critical infrastructure. We have seen the significant impact on traffic flow as loadshedding causes traffic lights to be out of service and leaves the streets dark as lamps die out, which increases the risk of road accidents and crime.

Hon Speaker, it is for this reason that DA-led governments across the Western Cape have with urgency begun to go above and beyond their mandate to address the energy crisis. The Western Cape Government recently allocated nearly R89 million in funding to mitigate the most drastic effects of loadshedding on our municipalities, while the City of Cape Town has

announced its own innovative measures to generate power and eliminate up to four stages of loadshedding.

Hon Speaker, if rolling blackouts are to continue in perpetuity, as Eskom is contemplating, these issues will progressively compound and multiply in unpredictable and unforeseeable ways. We cannot even begin to imagine the impact of sustained endless rolling blackouts on job creation and our most vital infrastructure.

So what can we do about it? The answer is actually quite a lot. Despite how bad things may seem there are several possible ways to get out of this crisis. Our power infrastructure can only be fixed by diversifying our generating capacity, allowing businesses and individuals to sell electricity onto the grid, giving tax rebates to those who generate their own power and allowing the involvement of the private sector.

In Cape Town [Inaudible.] governs. These initiatives have already been rolled out to its fullest with the result being that loadshedding remains two to three stages lower in Cape Town than it does in the rest of South Africa.

Hon Speaker, loadshedding and the ANC are inextricably linked and we should see our energy crisis for what it is: rolling blackouts and the ANC's half-hearted attempts to downplay this crisis represents what can only be described as the final kick of a dying horse. The death throes of a failed organisation.

Fixing loadshedding is [Inaudible.] we have the resources, the expertise and the will, but we cannot expect those who created the problem to fix it.

I have eternal hope that come 2024 we will see that South Africans recognise this too.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, America, can you please conclude.

Mr D AMERICA: And in one clear voice tell the ANC *voertsek*, to get out of the way.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member America, your time has expired.

Mr D AMERICA: And vote for the party that delivers, the Democratic Alliance. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member America.

Mr D AMERICA: *Amandla awethu*. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member America.

I now see hon member Dugmore. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

†Ek wil net vir agb lid Marais sê miskien is die Vryheidsfront sonder swart mense. [I just want to say to hon member Marais, perhaps the Freedom Front is without black people.]

†n AGB LID: Ja.

[An HON MEMBER: Yes.]

†Die LEIER VAN DIE OPPOSISIE: Jy sê mense sonder [Onhoorbaar.]

[The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You say people without [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, can I please ask that you speak to the Chair.

†Die LEIER VAN DIE OPPOSISIE: Die Vryheidsfront lyk vir my is sonder [Tussenwerpsels.], is sonder swart mense.

[The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: The Freedom Front looks to me is without [Interjections.], is without black people.]

I think what we must agree on is that the African National Congress Government must take responsibility ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... for the energy crisis.

The SPEAKER: No-no, I am just allowing you to so ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Okay, just please watch the time.
[Interjections.]

Must take responsibility for the energy crisis and we will and we will fix it, but I want to echo hon Marais's statement. [Interjections.] As much as I do not agree with †"*afstigting*" [cesession] on a boat, he did say ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... we have got to do this together.

The SPEAKER: ... can you speak to me and not to the members.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: He did say that we need to do this together and that does mean that we should have a serious debate about what a province can do, what a local government should do.

It is just a pity that the DA saw this as simply some vote-buying exercise and we need to say that we are concerned, why is the Premier not here. He is not listening to this debate whereas his Government has announced, hon Speaker,

three years ago an energy resilience plan and not one megawatt of energy has been produced by that plan. The Premier is unable to say, like the Mayor is unable to say, what will the cost be of a megawatt of power and why we, as the ANC, will resist the attempts to privatise Eskom.

The reality is at a balance of scale Eskom will be able to produce and is still able to produce power at a cheaper rate and that is why we must resist, we must bring on independent power producers, we must build on the partnership that we have, where a pipeline of private sector generation projects is actually increased to over 100 projects, representing more than 9 000 megawatts, but Eskom must be the bedrock and we need to say, let us not be shy to talk about the energy mix.

It is coal, it is renewables, it is nuclear ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... it is hydroelectric. [Interjections.] It is all of those things and sometimes the liberal media begins to push a narrative that our problems are going to be resolved by renewables. That is not true. [Interjections.]

We have hundreds and hundreds of years of coal under our ground. We should not be forced by Western powers into their agenda in regard to not utilising the resource, but you got to find cleaner ways of generating that

particular coal power, which is possible.

Pravin Gordhan, our Minister, said about Andre de Ruyter, and I quote:

"He did not pay attention to Eskom's generation that he should have done. Instead he swanned around looking at renewables."

Now I want to say that André de Ruyter's supporters might want to claim that he negotiated a \$8 billion deal, but let us look at that deal. How much of that is actually a grant? How much of it is actually a loan? And what do we have to pay back and who will actually benefit from that?

It is time that as South Africans and the Western Cape we assert that we want energy sovereignty. We do not want our energy supply – but, yes, the ANC has to fix this, the ANC Government, with our partners in business, with the Provincial Governments and to look at ways of actually dealing with this.

So that is particularly important, but in this province, hon Speaker, if you are poor and you go and try and buy R100 worth of electricity, a R100, you only get 10 or R15 if you are in arrears on your water account, and this hon Minister, hon Speaker, MEC who is sitting here, he has done absolutely nothing to check that people do not get penalised and now he wants to come and tell us that it is illegal, but he does nothing about it. [Interjections.]

The poor are suffering in this province from the fact that they cannot

...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, please conclude, your time has expired. You can conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Okay, but I – really, but I mean ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, please – hon members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Can I have my last sentence?

The SPEAKER: Yes, you can conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Ja. Ja, and as MEC of Human Settlements, Simmers, is about to speak, can he tell us how much electricity he stole in George? Can he actually remind us ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon – please take your seat ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... why were there charges brought against him ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... for stealing energy
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... in George. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Expired. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Jôh!

†Die LEIER VAN DIE OPPOSISIE: Hy moet antwoord.

[The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: He must reply.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, hon member Dugmore.
[Interjections.] Hon member Dugmore – hon members! [Interjections.] Hon
Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Hon Speaker, I do rise on Rule 59 that speaks to
reflections upon members of this House.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. [Interjections.]

Hon member Dugmore, can I please, can I please ask that you withdraw that
statement.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, I actually asked a question. I said given that MEC Simmers is going to speak, I am asking, I am asking whether he can tell us how much electricity, [Interjections.] so he can explain to the House ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No-no-no ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... because we have ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon – no ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... affidavits from officials from the George Municipality ...

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... about the hon member.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, you are reflecting on the integrity of a member of this House. Can I please ask that you withdraw that statement. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I withdraw and I ask MEC Simmers to tell us ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... about the electricity.

The SPEAKER: ... can – thank you, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Hon members, please take, please calm down. Hon members, we are nearly nearing the end of this debate.

I now see the hon Minister Simmers. Hon Simmers, Minister Simmers, please just take your seat. Hon ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: My apologies, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: ... Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Just for the record, we all saw the Premier here at the beginning when we started the House. The Premier tendered his apology and he had to attend to an emergency family matter. [Interjections.] The Premier is online, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright.

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that is not a point of order. [Interjections.]

Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: No, I am happy you have ruled that it is not a point of order, hon Speaker, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Hon Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, who I see is online, fellow Cabinet colleagues, all members of the Legislature and also our guests in the gallery.

When a country is in crisis, which all speakers before me has agreed upon we are in, its people look for direction to those who hold the highest office in the land. [Interjections.]

However, in South Africa that is simply not the case. Our sitting or sometimes sleeping President went and placed on record that the security and generation of electricity energy for the country is not his responsibility and shifted the blame to Local Government, but I have a new phrase [Inaudible.]

what the President said, it is called "Ramaparranism".

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And before me the main Ramaparranist of the ANC in the Western Cape spoke and this will lead ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... more and more fellow South Africans to make a choice, a clear choice to relocate to the Western Cape where we have a government that works and a government that cares for its people.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! You can continue ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Speaker, many of the Opposition speakers before me has asked since 2020 what has happened in terms of Local Government level and I am happy to say to this House, I am going to make just two examples for them to take note of.

When the rest of the country is experiencing Level 2 and 3 loadshedding, if you are a City of Cape Town resident most of the time you are actually spared this phenomenon and this is because the City of Cape Town

understands how to generate, store and distribute electricity. [Interjections.]

This is basics which Eskom clearly is failing in dismally, but we also push for innovation in Local Government in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

I am going to mention three such ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... projects in [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... underway. Underway.

The SPEAKER: You can continue, Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And I must say the feasibility studies are complete, the conceptual design is complete and it can generate up to 1.4 megawatts of power.

These are Goodwood TMC, the Gugulethu Electricity Depot and the Kraaifontein Wastewater Treatment Works.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: How much [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And if the Opposition can listen to the areas I have just mentioned and the citizens of the Western Cape, these are not areas that are affluent at all as they try to portray to the people.

Another municipality outside of the City of Cape Town is George, which amongst its short-term priorities is the reduction of its own consumption through own generation and demand management. This reduction consumption will decrease approximately 6 to 7 megawatts of power, which equates to a 10% reduction, but they have gone one step beyond, hon Speaker, because loadshedding impacts also the safety of our people and it is sad to see that last night at midnight a veterinarian doctor in the City of Cape Town was murdered because of loadshedding in the specific area he lives in.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: What they are doing, they have ensured that they have retrofitted traffic lights with LED lamps and UPSs which will ensure that their system at least at key intersections can last for four hours, to ensure the safety of the citizens of that town, but they have gone one step further, hon Speaker.

As we stand here a 1 megawatt powerplant will be commissioned by the end of September 2023 at a budget of R25 million in George, but to top that by November 2024 another 9 megawatt solar plant will be commissioned in the

City of George, and this is not just talking about what will happen in the future. I am stating facts of what is busy happening now to the Opposition in this House [Interjections.], but, hon Speaker, this is but two examples I can give you, but Province also has a key role to play and that role is played through the Western Cape Energy Council, which the Premier announced in October 2022, with a clear objective and that was to reduce the impact of loadshedding on businesses, citizens of the Western Cape and in the short, medium and long-term, but what are the five things that this Energy Council is focusing on to achieve our Premier's objective?

Firstly, it is a loadshedding relief programme. That is what we are busy with now. Then there is a Provincial Integrated Resource Plan or a PRIP. That is the medium to long-term energy plan for the Western Cape.

Then a Demand Side Management Programme, a new Energy Generation Programme and a Network Development Programme. This is what this Energy Council in the Western Cape is busy with. But during his SOPA our Premier committed to a staggering R1 billion towards energy crisis in our province, which speaks to the Energy Council achieving this objective and through this R1 billion recommitment a part of it seeks to assist SMMEs to assess and implement alternative energy options.

We are not just mitigating an ANC manufactured crisis which the hon member Mvimbi acknowledged partly in his speech, but we are also looking to empower and create economic opportunities for our intrapreneurs which

speak to the growth for jobs strategy of this province, but through you, hon Speaker, to hon member Nkondlo [Interjections.].

A part of that fund will also see 100 000 indigent households being equipped with an emergency power pack that will help reduce the impact of blackouts for them as well. Tell me what the other eight ANC governed provinces are doing. I can tell you what, nothing, zero, they are on blackout stage already. [Interjections.]

The National Minister of Finance revealed that individuals who install rooftop solar panels will be eligible to receive a rebate of 25% of the cost of the panels, but up to a maximum of R15 000. The Solar PVIA Association, SAPVIA, have indicated that the solar unit would in all likelihood cost R95 000 at the very least, but this rebate is only effective up to R60 000.

So this not only eliminates the poorest of the poor, but also short-changes those who can afford to purchase solar panels. Therefore it is of no use to anyone ultimately this rebate.

So, hon Speaker, through you, while others act as though they are stone deaf and love to give historic lessons for the problems of this country. We still see people experiencing four hours of loadshedding...

The SPEAKER: Minister Simmers, please conclude.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: This DA-led Government shows it cares by putting our money where our mouth is and we will give power to our people now towards the future. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Simmers. Please, your time has expired. [Applause.]

Thank you very much, hon members. That concludes the debate on this subject. We will now deal with Questions as printed on the Question Paper. I see the Chief Whip.

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

1. Mr M K Sayed to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

How much has his Department spent on the Wesley Neumann matter since its commencement to date?

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, the Hon Minister Maynier has tendered an apology for this sitting and the necessary arrangements has been made with the members posing the questions for it to stand over until the next sitting, thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Dugmore, is that a point

of order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Just a point of order in terms of House protocols. I just want to raise the point that for instance when I am about to get up and leave the House I normally acknowledge you. I just noticed that our new member of the EFF in the House simply got up and walked out whereas my understanding is that when you walk that way you are supposed to turn around and just acknowledge.

So I know that it is a question of each one teach one but I would just request his colleague to inform him of the protocol. It is also not safe, hon Speaker, it is not safe to walk with your back. It is always a good idea to turn around and be aware of your surroundings.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you very much, hon member Dugmore. Thank you, hon member America.

Hon members, thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. [Interjections.] So just for all members, Question 1, Question 3, Question 4 And Question 6 will therefore stand over on the Question Paper for Oral Reply. We will start with Question 2 on the Oral Paper.

I now see the hon Minister of Agriculture, Minister Meyer.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Dankie, agb Speaker.

Die 2022 globale voedselsekuriteitsindeks het Suid-Afrika in die 70ste posisie geplaas uit 'n totaal van 113 lande wat geëvalueer was in terme van voedselbekostigbaarheid, 52ste posisie vir voedselbeskikbaarheid en 60ste posisie vir kwaliteit en veiligheid.

Daarom is dit duidelik dat voedselbekostigbaarheid, ook bekend as ekonomiese toegang, 'n groot uitdaging is, gevolg deur voedselbeskikbaarheid en kwaliteit en veiligheid, in daardie volgorde.

Die jongste algemene huishoudelike opname data toon 'n toename van 0,8% in die vlak van kwesbaarheid vir honger op huishoudelike vlak in 2021 met 21% op nasionale huishoudingsvlak, wat onvoldoende voedselbeskikbaarheid ervaar.

Daarom, agb Speaker, die aantal Wes-Kaapse huishoudings wat onvoldoende voedselbeskikbaarheid ervaar is effens laer as die nasionale vlak op 19,6%, maar nog steeds kommerwekkend.

Die impak van die COVID-19 pandemie, die oorlog tussen Rusland en Oekraïne, en die voortdurende uitdagings van energievoorsiening in Suid-Afrika, is van die hoof faktore wat die tempo van ekonomiese herstel vertraag. Die COVID-19 pandemie het ook dan die kwesbaarheid van voedselverskaffingskettings blootgelê en daartoe gelei dat baie mense hulle werk verloor het en op die Regering se maatskaplike hulpverlening moes

staatmaak, terwyl die oorlog tussen Oekraïne en Rusland ook 'n groot voedselsekerheidsrisiko-bedreiging bly vir Suid-Afrika, maar ook vir ander Afrikalande.

Die energievoorsieningsuitdaging gaan voort om die sake en bedrywighede ook te vertraag, wat bydra tot reeds bestaande uitdagings. Daarom beïnvloed beide die mikro- en die makro-ekonomiese faktore die huidige toestand van voedselrisiko's nie net hier in die Wes-Kaap nie, maar ook in die res van Suid-Afrika, maar ook per implikasie die res van Afrika, want daar is 50 lande in die wêreld wat afhanklik is van brood as 'n stapelvoedsel en daar is ernstige implikasies vir die uitvoer van graan veral uit Oekraïne, wat 'n geweldige impak het op voedselsekureit ook in die res van die wêreld. Dankie, agb Speaker.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker.

The 2022 global food security index placed South Africa in the 70th place from a total of 113 countries that were evaluated in terms of food affordability, 52nd position for food availability and 60th position for quality and safety.

Therefore it is clear that food affordability, also known as economic access, is a big challenge, followed by food availability and quality and safety, in that sequence.

The most recent general household survey data shows an increase of 0,8% in the level of vulnerability for hunger at household level in 2021 with 21% at national household level, experiencing insufficient food availability.

Therefore, hon Speaker, the number of Western Cape households experiencing insufficient food availability is somewhat lower than the national level at 19,6%, but it's still worrying.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war between Russia and the Ukraine, and the continuing challenges of energy supply in South Africa, are some of the main factors slowing down the tempo of economic recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic also exposed the vulnerability of food supply chains and led to many people losing their jobs and had to rely on the Government's social aid, while the war between the Ukraine and Russia also remains a big food security risk for South Africa, but also for other African countries.

The energy supply challenge continues to delay business and activities, which contributes to the existing challenges. Therefore both the micro and macro-economic factors affect the present situation of food risks, not just here in the Western Cape, but also in the rest of South Africa, and also by implication in the rest of Africa, because there are 50 countries in the world that are dependent on bread as staple food and there are serious implications for the export of grain especially from Ukraine, which has an enormous effect on food security, also in the rest of the world. Thank you, hon Speaker.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

Hon members, there are four opportunities for follow-up questions on all oral questions. The first opportunity will be afforded to the person posing the question, so I am seeing hon member Van der Westhuizen.

†Mnr AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Baie dankie, agb Speaker.

Agb Speaker, deur u aan die Minister van Landbou. Minister Meyer, wat is die effek wat beurtkrag op voedselsekuriteit en die produksie van voedsel in Suid-Afrika het?

[Mr AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, through you to the Minister of Agriculture. Minister Meyer, what is the effect of load shedding on food security and the production of food in South Africa?]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen.

I see the hon Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Agb Speaker, beurtkrag het 'n groter negatiewe impak op die landbousektor, op voedselsekuriteit selfs as COVID.

Een van die ernstige implikasies van beurtkrag is dat ons veral in ons tuinbedryf ons spilpunte het, ons het besproeiingsboere hier in die Wes-Kaap en daardie besproeiingsboere het energiesekeuriteit nodig vir die besproeiing. Soos ons nou hier sit, lede van hierdie Huis, is ons nou in die oesseisoen. Dit is die hoogtydperk van die oesseisoen en dit is die hoogste tydperk waarvoor energiesekeuriteit nodig is. Nie net nodig is nie, broodnodig.

Almal van ons het vanoggend geëet, almal van ons wil môreoggend eet en hierdie energiekrisis het 'n geweldige impak, want ons werk met besproeiingsboere.

Die volgende enorme impak wat hier is, is dat ons in die Wes-Kaap is verantwoordelik vir 55% van Suid-Afrika se primêre landbou-uitvoerproduksie en hierdie impak van beurtkrag gaan 'n effek hê dat ons selfs soveel as 5% minder produkte kan uitvoer, en hierdie Huis behoort te weet dat 5% toename of 'n 5% afname het 'n direkte effek van 19 000 werksgeleenthede.

Ek is baie bly dat Statistiek Suid-Afrika gister bevestig het dat in Suid-Afrika 169 000 werksgeleentdhede geskep is en dat 167 000 van daardie werk hier in die Wes-Kaap geskep is, maar ek is bekommerd oor die impak van beurtkrag op ons besproeiingsboere, ons sitrusbedryf, ons druiwebedryf, want Suid-Afrika is die tweede-grootste sitrusuitvoerder per volume in die wêreld na Spanje. Wes-Kaap is die derde grootste produseerder van sitrus en hierdie het geweldige impak, maar, agb Speaker, hierdie impak ervaar ons nou op die

huishoudingsvlak waar mense sukkel om kos te kook, mense sukkel om te lewe, ouers ervaar dit moeilik vir hulle kinders om skool toe te gaan, self werk toe te gaan.

So as ons praat oor die impak van beurtkrag moet ons praat oor die impak op die mense, en ek dink hierdie kragonderbreking, ek stem saam met ons senior leier in hierdie Huis, voormalige Premier Peter Marais, dat hierdie probleem moet aangepak word met die erns en met die wakkerheid en met die geesdrif,

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, load shedding has a greater negative impact on the agricultural sector, on food security than even COVID.

One of the serious implications of load shedding is that especially in the garden industry we have pivotal points, we have irrigation farmers here in the Western Cape and those irrigation farmers need energy security for irrigation. As we are sitting here now, members of this House, we are now in the harvest season. It is the high period of the harvest season and it's the highest period for which energy security is necessary. Not just necessary, but crucially essential.

All of us ate this morning, all of us want to eat tomorrow morning and this energy crisis has an enormous impact, because we are dealing with irrigation farmers.

The next enormous impact that's here, is that in the Western Cape we are responsible for 55% of South Africa's primary agricultural export products and this impact of load shedding is going to have an effect that we can export even as much as 5% less products and this House knows that 5% increase or a 5% decrease has a direct effect on 19 000 job opportunities.

I'm very pleased that Statistics South Africa yesterday confirmed that in South Africa 169 000 job opportunities were created and that 167 000 of those work opportunities were created here in the Western Cape, but I'm worried about the impact of load shedding on our irrigation farmers, our citrus industry, our grape industry, because South Africa is the second largest citrus exporter per volume in the world to Spain. Western Cape is the third largest producer of citrus and this has an enormous impact, but hon Speaker, this impact we now experience at household level where people are struggling to cook their food, struggle to survive, parents find it difficult for their children to go to school, to go to work themselves.

So if we speak of the impact of load shedding, we have to speak of the impact on the people, and I think this power failure, I agree with our senior leader in the House, former Premier Peter Marais, that this problem should be tackled with seriousness and alertness and enthusiasm,] because it is urgent and it is important, and that is why we cannot sleep in the National Parliament when the crisis is at stake.

I am thankful that members in this House do not sleep. They are awake,

unlike them in the National Assembly, and so I want to thank you for being awake because this is not something common in the National Assembly.

[Interjections.]

Thank you, hon member, thank you hon member Mvimbi, thank you hon member Nkondlo, thank you for being awake ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... because we cannot sleep ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... Minister, can you speak to me.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Sorry. We cannot sleep when people ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... are facing a crisis of this magnitude. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Speaker.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I listen very carefully

...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon – is it a point of order?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... to hon member ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you please take your seat.

Hon member Mvimbi, is that a point of order? Hon Minister, please take your seat.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Yes, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, while I welcome the acknowledgement from the Minister, please, it is Mvimbi not Mavimbi. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: Mvimbi.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mvimbi, that is not a point of order. Please take your seat.

Hon Minister, that is hon member Mvimbi. Just for the record. Hon Minister, you can continue. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I apologise to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Public Accounts, he is doing an outstanding job and he knows that I have warm feelings towards him.

So, hon Speaker, this is not only the impact on the production side of agriculture, but it is also the impact on the packhouses, the impact on cold storage, the impact of the transportation and so I am deeply concerned because again at the household level what this means, ma'am, is that food prices will rise, food inflation will increase and we will pay a higher price and with R350 you cannot afford that type of social grant ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... to sustain families.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip is that a point of order? Can – okay, I recognise the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Thank you, hon Speaker.

I would like you to caution the MEC to refer to you rather than pointing out to members.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister, can I please ask that

you speak to the Chair and not directly to them to the members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I again apologise, but my feeling is again warm towards the member. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Can you have the warm feelings through me to the member? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I will channel my warm feelings to the member via you, Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: But, hon Speaker, what this question boils down to ultimately away from the continental macro institutional level to the individual household level. All of this and we have seen it, staple food, inflation, we have seen the South African Reserve Bank, we are now outside the inflation band between 3 and 6%, we are now outside that band as a direct result of the impact of the cost of electricity on the food prices.

People are suffering and so we can now talk about the Minister of Energy and Electricity.

An HON MEMBER: And Mobility also.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: No, Mobility is fine. Electricity. [Interjections.] But what we need is a government with a backbone that understands the seriousness of this, that understands the impact of inflation and understands the devastating impact.

People are now paying more for gas. People are now paying more for electricity. Every time when you now, hon Speaker, and I think members in this House have also experienced it from their constituencies, that when loadshedding is happening and you have 100 units when it goes off, when it goes on you suddenly see you have got 90 units.

An HON MEMBER: Huh-uh, huh-uh!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Ten units are gone and I want to say that this is ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... something ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

An HON MEMBER: Hey, hey, that is not true.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: This is something that hurts the poor

the most. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: The reason why they are nonchalant, they do not care [Interjections.]. If they do not care, that is the response. This side of the House we are caring [Interjections.].

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: People are ignorant and not caring.

An HON MEMBER: Exactly! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: If they ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... if they connect with their voters ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order, hon members!

Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Yes, it is.

The SPEAKER: Okay, hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: I would like to know if the word that MEC has used, that "ignorant", is parliamentary? Because I am speaking from experience.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, did you reflect on the dignity of a member?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, if I referred to the [Inaudible.] I am happy to apologise, but my body language [Interjections.] to them, but I am happy because I have warm feelings to her through you. I apologise.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you very much, hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: [Inaudible.] question, what happens when your loadshedding happens, take down your credits, units, and when it comes on please take down your units of electricity. Please then come to this House ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

Hon member Kama, is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I know that you cannot dictate, but ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order, hon member Kama?

Mr M KAMA: I am trying to raise the point of order. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Okay. Hon members, I can chair. [Interjections.] Hon members, hon members, there is a member on the floor [Interjections.] – hon members, there is a member on the floor.

What is your point of order, hon member Kama?

Mr M KAMA: It is on relevance, hon Speaker, because the last time I checked we were talking about agriculture, and there was a question as to

what leads to that. Now I do not know, we are talking about meter boxes and [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: I do not think that is relevant to anything.

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: [Inaudible.] it is rendering this House useless in terms of our oversight responsibility.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes!

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, relevance is a point of order, but that point of order in that context is not a point of order. The question was posed to the Minister, how the Minister responds to that question is up to the Minister. So I am going to allow the Minister to continue.

Hon Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker.

The first law of politics is to understand the concept of causality. And causality, how one ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... thing affects and impacts the other. And I am very disappointed that this member has not passed the test of causality in his ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Minister Meyer ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... discussions [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... please take your seat. Minister Meyer, please take your seat.

Hon member Lekker, is that a point of order? [Interjections.]

Hon Chief Whip? [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I want you to rule on the fact that the MEC has once again spoke on the integrity of a member of this House. Can you rule when he spoke of a concept of causality, that what one thinks – in fact he even said, "What you think." That is, it speaks to the integrity of hon member Kama. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip of the Opposition.

Hon Minister Meyer, I am going to ask you did you reflect on the integrity of hon member Kama? If so, can you please withdraw.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, because I have warm feelings for the member ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: *Heybo!*

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... through you ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: *Heybo!*

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... if I have hurt the feelings of this honourable member, I am happy to withdraw and apologise.

Fact of the matter is people in South Africa are suffering. We are making jokes here ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Mmm. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... and I think people must understand ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... the severity of this crisis
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: People are suffering on a daily basis.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

Hon Sayed [Interjections.] – hon members, there – hon members, hon
members, there is a member on the floor. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, you know, hon Speaker,
compared to all members in the House, the hon Minister or MEC, Dr Meyer,
is also the Leader of Government Business. He ought to lead by example,
understand?

Here we are holding him accountable. He must respond to the question
...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... and not plunge the House into chaos through jokes and innuendos. It is not a point of order ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... but it is at least, it is just a call for some caution. Can we run smoothly, please? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you, hon Deputy Chief Whip.

As you yourself indicated it is not a point of order. Hon Minister, can you continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, the electricity crisis is bigger than the COVID crisis and the impact on agriculture is massive, but it is at the household level where I think the impact is felt the most and this is all caused specifically, not as the members on that side of the House would like to argue, this is a political crisis because there was politics interfering with energy provision in this country.

Let us make no mistake, no matter what people say, the crisis that we face in South Africa is an energy crisis impacting on agriculture, destroying lives and livelihoods in South Africa. I have been to farms and I have seen the impact on farms. There are photo images where you can actually see what is

the impact of loadshedding specifically on the graphic side of the impact of it and I think, hon Speaker, the Western Cape is a net exporter of agricultural products. 50% of all the agricultural products are going on the African continent, lesson 101, on the African continent.

So this impact, hon member Andricus, is wider than the Western Cape. It is now on the African continent because 50% of South Africa's exports go in the African continent. So this crisis impacts on food security on the African continent, but my heart is bleeding because I cannot see how somebody with R350 can go to the shop more than once. You know what the experience is when you go to the shop with a R350. One time, gone, and so this is a painful experience and let us remind ourselves that the people are suffering every single day as a result of the impact of loadshedding, and that is why this Government ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... has now made available R1 billion to deal with ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... this crisis in this Government. But while, hon Speaker, while this Government makes available R1 billion, at Eskom they are stealing R1 billion every single day and I want you to check

your units ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... when you go home tonight and see what the impact of that R1 billion theft is. [Interjections.] Theft comes at a price for the poor and that is why I agree with hon member Cayla Murray when she said let us vote out the ANC next year. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, that is the first question.

I see hon member Marran and then hon member Marais and then hon member Van der Westhuizen.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you for your speech, MEC.

A painful experience for farmworkers was when your party in 2019 in your manifesto ...[Interjections.]

Am HON MEMBER: Ja.

Mr P MARRAN: ... proposed a minimum wage which is equal to the old age pension grant, that is painful when your party introduces a slave wage.

[Interjections.]

MEC, the new minimum wage came into effect yesterday, R4 953 to be exact and it is determined by National Government. [Interjections.] No, it is fine. At least the illegal Government is looking after the needs of ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Marran, can you speak to me.

Mr P MARRAN: ... our farmworkers.

The SPEAKER: Hon Marran, speak to the Chair and, Minister, you will have an opportunity to respond.

Mr P MARRAN: Through you, hon Speaker, through you, hon Speaker, because the MEC is saying that it is painful, people are struggling to buy food and workers are suffering. It is true, they are suffering because they cannot afford to buy food because of a slave wage that has been proposed by ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: That is what?

Mr P MARRAN: ... the DA Government. [Interjections.] Can this MEC tell me, hon Speaker, whether he supports the new minimum wage that came into effect yesterday, R4 953,09, to make it possible for farm workers to buy

food, to secure food security? Or do they still feel that R4 900 is too much? And still stands on their position that farm workers should still earn a minimum wage of which is equal to the old age pension grant? Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marran.

Hon Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, let us be frank. If this Government that is running South Africa stop stealing we can double that minimum wage. [Interjections.]

So my answer is stop stealing ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... and I want that minimum wage three times. Stop this R1 billion theft because if you stop stealing we can pay everybody even above the minimum wage. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. [Interjections.] I see the – hon members, the – hon members.

Hon member Sayed, is that a point of order? No, the follow-ups are hon member Marais and then hon member Van der Westhuizen and then the four

are done. [Interjections.]

So – hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARIAS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, we [Inaudible.] to the hon Minister, there is no doubt the Western Cape is the food basket of South Africa. There is also no doubt that in terms of wheat we are the big producers, and I remember when I was still a young man, that bread, which is a staple food of most South Africans, bread was price-controlled. They could not just charge the people 20, 21, R22 for a loaf. The Government interfered and laid down a maximum price for bread in the shops.

Do you think, Minister, something must be done to subsidise staple diets of the people in the Western Cape and elsewhere? Every country has staple diets which people, everybody or most people live on. Do you not think the time has come for engaging the National Treasury and Minister to see what can be done to subsidise certain foods which are considered a staple diet?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais.

Hon Minister Meyer.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Agb lid Marais, kan ek in Afrikaans

antwoord?

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon member Marais, can I reply in Afrikaans?]

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Natuurlik.

[Mr P J MARAIS: Of course.]

†'n AGB LID: Asseblief.

[An HON MEMBER: Please.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Daarsy, my huistaal.

Ek dink, agb Speaker, aan agb lid Marais, rakende 'n baie pertinente kwessie, want dit is pynlik om te sien hoe mense daaglik krepeer van ellende en van armoede, en armoede is nie 'n grap nie, en ek hoop lede gaan nie dit beskou as 'n grap nie.

Beide kante van die Huis [Tussenwerpsels.] en ek dink daarom het my Departement ... [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: There you go, my mother tongue.]

I think, hon Speaker, to hon member Marais, concerning a very pertinent question, because it's painful to see how people are suffering daily from misery and poverty [Interjections.] and poverty is no joke, and I hope the

members are not going to see it as a joke,

Both sides of the House [Interjections.] and I think because of that my Department ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: ... en ook hierdie ...[Tussenwerpsels.]
[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... and also these ...][Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Answer the question about the salary.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Die mense...[Tussenwerpsels.]
[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: The people ...][Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Marran – hon Minister, please take your seat.

Hon member Marran, you had an opportunity to ask a question. There is now a question by another member and the Minister is responding to the question of that member. Can you please respect that so that the member that posed the question can hear the answer.

There is a constant commentary from you, hon member Marran. Hon member

Klaas, is that a point of order?

Mr T KLAAS: Ja, one thing I did not say, I do not know what I can say, but I do not want to deal with points of order. I want just to ask a question to the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, that is not a point of order. The [Interjections.] – there is a process as per the Rules of how questions are posed.

So there are four questions already being posed. [Interjections.] Hon members, please settle down.

Mr T KLAAS: No ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: You cannot ask a question, hon member Marran – hon member Klaas.

Mr T KLAAS: I want to ask a question ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No. [Laughter]

Mr T KLAAS: It is about what ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, you are contravening the Rules, can I

please ask you to take your seat.

Hon Minister Meyer, you may continue.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Maar op 'n latere stadium sal ek met hom gesels.

Ek dink hierdie belangrike vraag van agb lid Marais

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: But at a later stage I will talk to him.

I think this important question of hon member Marais] about staple food is absolutely correct. I think we have done a basket of staple food. We have costed it and we have made some proposals to the National Treasury because we have asked for some exemptions, that exemptions to make food more affordable. We have asked for rebates also to make life a little bit easier. We have made some specific proposals during the budget speech of the National Minister. We will be making further inputs during the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement in the National Assembly because we do believe that we need to protect this party on this side of the House to generally do not believe in a protectionist economy, we believe in open economy, but we are in abnormal circumstances. [Interjections.]

That is why because of the pain that we understand of the poor, we support a cap, even a reduction, even elimination on VAT on certain food, but also

rebates to make life for people easier.

So I agree with the sentiment of the question. In terms of the technical applications there are different models, but I support the general thrust of the question that came from him and, hon member Klaas, after the session here today we can have a nice cup of tea and we can talk endlessly.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon ... [Interjections.]

Mr T KLAAS: It is not about cup of tea, it is a reality.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. [Interjections.]

Hon member Van der Westhuizen.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Agb Speaker, deur u, baie dankie aan Minister Meyer vir sy antwoorde tot dusver.

Agb Speaker, ek dink ons almal weet dat 'n integrale deel van 'n gebalanseerde dieet is ook die inname van genoegsame volumes van proteïne.

[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Speaker, through you, thank you to Minister Meyer for his replies so far.

Hon Speaker, I think that we all know that an integral part of a balanced diet is also the intake of sufficient volumes of protein.][Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: My vraag – proteïne.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: My question – protein.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Ons weet ook dat as gevolg van die beleid van die Nasionale Regering, daar 'n groeiende tekort aan veeartse en spesifiek staatsveeartse besig is om te ontstaan en my vraag aan Minister Meyer is, hou dit ook 'n risiko in vir voedselsekuriteit? Die feit dat daar nie genoegsame veeartse is wat betyds diersiektes kan identifiseer en so meer nie, en miskien as Minister Meyer so gaaf sal wees om ook te verwys na die verspreiding van bek-en-klouseer en die impak wat dit op ons rooivleis bedryf het. Baie dankie, agb Speaker.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: We also know that because of the policy of the National Government, a growing shortage in veterinarians and specifically state veterinarians is busy developing and my question to Minister Meyer is, does it also have a risk for food security? The fact is that there are not enough veterinarians that can timeously identify animal diseases and so on, and perhaps if Minister Meyer will be so kind to also refer to the

spread of foot-and-mouth disease and the impact it has on our red meat industry? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Dankie, agb Voorsitter van die Staande Komitee.

Die internasionale norm vir veeartse is tussen 200 en 600 veeartse per miljoen inwoners. Suid-Afrika is tans tussen 60 en 70 veeartse per miljoen inwoners. Ons is dus tans soos ons hier is slegs op 25% van die norm. Ander gestel ons is 75% onder die internasionale norm per miljoen inwoners ten opsigte van veeartse.

So daardie norm het ernstige implikasies vir dieregesondheid en dierewelsyn. Hier in die Wes-Kaap het ons,

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Chairman of the Standing Committee.

The international norm for veterinarians is between 200 and 600 vets per million residents. In South Africa it is currently between 60 and 70 veterinarians per million residents. We are thus here as we are at only 25% of the norm. Put differently, we are 75% below the international norm per 1 million citizens with regard to veterinarians.

So that norm has serious implications for animal health and animal welfare. Here in the Western Cape] we have a veterinary export certification office, hon member Klaas, and at that office we certify the export of meat and meat products. The total value of that is R5,3 billion, lots of money every month, hon member Klaas, 2 600 ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, speak to me.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon member Klaas, 2 600 applications for meat and meat products' exports.

We know that protein, as the hon member Van der Westhuizen rightfully point out, is a very basic, very important necessary ingredient for the basic diet and we have serious implications if we have a shortage of veterinarians and I have now written to the National Minister to ask her to also intervene, because as you know veterinary services, particularly that specific aspect of it, is a Schedule 4 function in the Constitution and I think this poses a serious risk.

I am particularly concerned about this risk manifesting in the Free State, Eastern Cape and other provinces and so this is an added risk, an added complexity because shortage of veterinarians will also impact on animal health. That shortage of veterinarians will also impact not only in animal health, but also in the health of the people who are eating these particular

products.

So, hon member, I am concerned about this situation. I think members on this House will also know that and the hon member of Beaufort West will know the seriousness of this situation also in the Karoo and I think members of this House must join me and I call on the Leader of the Official Opposition to support my request that this country cannot have one veterinary training institute at Onderstepoort through the University of the Free State. This is absolutely important that we get another training institute for veterinary services, preferably in one of the coastal provinces, either KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape or the Western Cape.

I think that will make a significant contribution to the increase of veterinary services. Hon member of the Standing Committee, I will make a major announcement during my budget speech because I have now prioritised this specific aspect. I met with my HOD and I said this year animal health and animal safety will be a key focus of the rest of my term of office and obviously very important, that is why this is the only province with a farmworker programme, a farmworker budget, a farmworker, agri-worker budget, agri-worker competition. You know how lovely that lamb shank tastes, but because [Interjections.] – you know ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... a lamb shank?

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: No. [Interjections.] No.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: We [Interjections.] ...

An HON MEMBER: How much?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: The agri-worker competition, the only one in the country is in this province. The competition, only in this province. The only province that sends the agri-worker overseas to the Netherlands, Rotterdam ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: How many?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... to Berlin in Germany, to observe the biggest ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: How many?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... fruit global festival called "Fruit Loop". Nowhere, anywhere does it happen and I want to thank the hon

member Marran that he every year attends it and every year supports it, and thank you for your support in the Standing Committee to get the budget approved ...[Interjections.]

†n AGB LID: Hoor-hoor!

[An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... for the agri-workers. Agri-workers are the cornerstone of agriculture in the Western Cape. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

That concludes Question 1. Question 2 on the Order Paper or Question Paper. We now move on to Question 5 on the Question Paper for Oral Reply.

I see the Minister, Minister Allen.

5. Mr T M Klaas to ask Mr R I Allen, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

What is his Department doing through the Safety Plan to tackle recent criminal attacks on construction workers in the province?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Hon Speaker, thank you so much. I also want to say thank you to hon member Klaas for this particular question and then also remind the House that on 27 January the Mayor for the City of Cape Town, the MMC responsible for Human Settlements, top management in terms of the South African Police Service, the Minister for Infrastructure, together with his Department officials, and the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety met in this very room to address this particular matter.

This is a matter that remains a concern not only to the Western Cape Government, but to many of our stakeholders as well, but to answer that question I am also wanting to state, hon Speaker, that I have provided hon member Klaas with the entire PMG recording and the relevant WCPP link so that he is able to then further listen to that three hour engagement that was facilitated by the Chairperson for Human Settlements, and I also want to say thank you to hon member Maseko because we know it is an integrated approach.

To answer the question specifically, the investigation into extortion remains the mandate of the South African Police Service. The Department, however, plays a key role in co-chairing the Anti-Gang Provincial Joint Committee and partners with the South African Police Service by serving on the bi-weekly Extortion Priority Committee.

We have always maintained that it takes a coordinated effort of all role-

players and the 27 January meeting confirmed that once again, but further to that the Department also co-chairs a bi-weekly LEAP operational steercom meeting with the City of Cape Town. Further the Department also in terms of our Court Watching Brief Programme, monitors a number of court cases across various crime categories, but also specifically to extortion cases.

Also through the whole of society approach and the whole of government approach the Government structures and civilians are encouraged to report extortion to the South African Police Service. We are always saying and through you, hon Speaker, to the residents of the Western Cape, that any complaints that we are receiving via the Department, there can also be complaints submitted anonymously. That particular number is 0800 31 44 44. I will repeat 0800 31 44 44, but in addition to this further, hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government remains committed to fighting various forms of crime and we encourage and we have had various interactions, especially in a number of priority areas to mobilise our Neighbourhood Watches and engagement around our CPFs because they play a vital role in feeding information to the South African Police Service, to law enforcement and to SAPS as a critical cog in addressing this particular matter. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

I see hon member Klaas, then hon member Bans and then hon member Bosman and hon member Kama.

Mr T M KLAAS: Thank you for answering my question, but I will just give you an extra mile of question, that is, are all mobile police stations at this moment covered? If so, prove to me because I have got mobile police station in Zolani that is not operating. I have got a mobile police station in Paarl that is not, it looks like operating, but it are only two people there. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Klaas.

Hon Minister Allen, I know that that was bordering on a new question. So if you are able to answer it you are free to do so. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you so much, hon member Klaas.

In terms of the Constitution the MEC, or in our case the Provincial Minister, will sign off on our policing infrastructure needs and priorities.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
We have made it clear in terms of our policing needs and priorities that there are a number of satellite stations, or like you are saying mobile stations, that are required in a number of areas. That particular engagement happens during the first week of April.

I have listed a number of mobile stations, of satellite stations, and those that you have listed are on my list, together with stations in Makhaza, which

should have been there a long time ago already, but also, the one in Mamre, for example. But we have a number, and I will definitely make sure that the office sends you information and to the Standing Committee directly after the Policing Infrastructure needs are signed off with our Provincial Commissioner.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I see hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I hear now the hon MEC is saying that extortion is a function of SAPS. However, each time when we enter the House here we would hear that the hon Premier is saying that the Safety Plan is static, it evolves with time and addresses threats.

Now, extortion is one of our threats within this province, and GBV, also hijacking. I have not heard anything. In fact, there is no provision made for these issues. What I would want to know from the hon Minister: in the upcoming budget, is he planning or intending to include these matters that I am raising now? I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bans. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you so much, hon Speaker. I appreciate the question and that is what we have consistently said that within our mandate, hon Speaker, we want to make sure that our oversight is leading to better service delivery. We are not

taking away from our mandate, but we also realise in terms of the Constitution, SAPS has a clear mandate.

We are able to collect information. We know that intelligence will sit directly with the South African Police Service. There are matters in the City of Cape Town where there is a dedicated unit in order to collect information as well, that is shared via that Provincial Joint meeting and engagement, so that that information can be analysed. It can then lead to intelligence which will ultimately make sure that those perpetrators are held accountable.

For the record, I also want to state that we have seen that there are currently at least two major cases within the Western Cape High Court dealing directly with this particular extortion, racketeering, and plain criminality that has plagued our province. But I want to stress again, and I will make sure that I send that to hon member Bans as well, the Standing Committee on Human Settlements on 27 January ventilated this particular matter and there are a clear set of resolutions where we want to be held accountable. But I will also hold other departments duly accountable for the role that they need to play consistently, as we are asking.

And if I listened properly, hon Speaker, to the question, I think there might be a slight hint that hon member Bans could be supporting our call for devolution in that we need to do more towards ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No, no.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
...influencing the South African Police Service. But thank you so much for
the question, hon member Bans.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you:
hon Minister, are you able to perhaps tell us some more about the
implementation of the Safety Plan and the Anti-Extortion Task Team, and
specifically what role the South African Police Service is playing? Also, hon
Minister, with the extortion rackets in the Western Cape, are you perhaps able
to share with the House whether there is any evidence of high-level
involvement from senior politicians in a certain political party?

The SPEAKER: Is that a point of order? [Interjection.] So, the four
opportunities have already been taken. So, then the last opportunity will be
hon Kama. So, there are no more opportunities for this question. Hon
Minister.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you so much. Hon Speaker, there is certain information that I am able
to make public. A number of these matters, hon colleagues, through you, hon
Speaker, would be highly sensitive. It would be highly sensitive, and it will
place a number of people's lives potentially at risk.

So, to answer that particular question the first part will be that we have seen that there is an extortion committee, a high-level committee that is an integrated committee consisting of the South African Police Service, the City of Cape Town, the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, together with the NPA. From there, there is also then a particular task team that will work on an ad hoc basis, but also, investigate a number of these matters.

If hon member Bosman is aware of any particular person that is involved and if that person is sitting in this House, I would love to get that information so that we can make sure that all processes are followed, because I think no-one would want to be associated with any form of extortion. But we would rather want to see those that are busy with those types of activities in our communities, be it in Khayelitsha, in Long Street or anywhere in our province, that they will ultimately be held accountable and that they will be brought to book and land up in Pollsmoor.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. The last opportunity, hon Kama.

Mr M KAMA (ANC): No, thank you very much, hon Speaker. I think maybe the hon MEC did not get the question of hon member Bans. Let me ask that question perhaps because I think the understanding, hon Speaker, is that there was a document, a working document, that was presented as a Safety Plan.

That working document promises the citizens of the Western Cape that the Government is going to have an integrated approach to fight crime and it is going to be evidence-led. No, it is going to be evidence-based and all that. Now, the question is because the issue of extortion around construction did not start yesterday or with the killing of the City official, may his (*sic*) soul rest in peace.

Now the question is, using this Safety document, what is it that the Government is doing, whether through having evidence. We have evidence as to which sites are potentially targeted and what are the possible reasons, and how much are we investing as Government using the Safety Plan to ensure that we prevent instances where there are these people who go and commit these atrocious crimes in these sites. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Kama. Hon Minister

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank so much, hon Speaker. I am going to respond to the question. I appreciate the question and I am sincerely not wanting to sound in a certain way, hon Speaker. When we talk about data and an evidence-based approach, what we mean in policing is that we collect the data with the assistance from Forensic Pathology Services, so we know where murders are happening, where assault is happening, where GBV is happening because that information is recorded via Forensic Pathology Services. That is the one thing. We collect the data.

The evidence-based in policing terms actually means that we are influencing where officers are deployed, the time they are working, where they are working and the operations that they are conducting in order to reduce crime. Evidence teaches us in policing that whenever there are engagements around an anti-gang strategy, you need to ultimately build the evidence in order to ensure that you are able to tackle that particular gang and its modus operandi. So, that is an evidence-based policing strategy.

I am also delighted to announce that our work with a foundation was also now adopted by the South African Police Service and during the month of January, that particular foundation had high-level interactions with the South African Police Service to actually explain what a data-led approach and an evidence-based approach is.

And hon Speaker, again for the record, I was very delighted during the SONA to hear that our President, that our National President, his excellency Cyril Ramaphosa actually stated in his State of the Nation Address that the South African Police Service will now undertake a data-led approach to policing. And I have echoed in these Chambers that that is exactly what we have been doing since 2019 and we will continue to do it.

But on the crime intelligence part, and I think that is, through you, hon Speaker, what hon member Kama is referring to. The task from a crime intelligence point of view, that mandate does not sit with LEAP, it is a

national competency. But again, hon Speaker, and with all due respect, if I am listening to the question, I can clearly see that the hon members are nudging the Western Cape to get certain competencies to deal with intelligence. [Interjections.] That is why we are calling for devolution so that those powers can sit here and so that we can ultimately make sure that the intelligence leads [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
...to arrests that are being made. I want to say thank you to the hon members for the questions because I can read between the lines, and I can see that there are hon members of this House that are seeing and that are wanting to give certain capabilities to our Province. That is not in terms of our Constitution, but we support [Interjections.] we support ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
We support the ANC's call for greater levels of powers within the Western Cape. [Interjections.] So, thank you so much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister [Interjections.] [Applause.] Hon members, that concludes Question 5 on the Question Paper for Oral Reply. We now ...[Interjections.] hon members! Hon Minister and

...[Interjection.] You had an opportunity to answer questions. We now move on to Question 7 on the Oral Paper. I see the hon Minister Simmers.

Free housing opportunities

7. Ms A Cassiem to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

What are the details of the current backlog with regard to people who have applied for free housing opportunities?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and through you, thank you to the hon member for the question. As at the end of January 2023, the housing backlog in the Western Cape sits at 598 955. Of this, 356 524 are within the City of Cape Town and 242 431 are in the 24 non-metro areas. Based on the current quantum, it will require a budget in excess of R100-billion to clear this backlog. That is 50 times my current budget for Human Settlements. notwithstanding the current semigration patterns which will further exacerbate the current backlog.

The Western Cape, hon Speaker, is a trailblazer and is a province of choice for a number of our citizens because of our good governance and stellar delivery record. Being so efficient is both a gift and a curse. We are paying the price for the dismal performance of the ANC-governed zombie provinces. [Interjections.] In the Western Cape, we are changing the lives of our less fortunate citizens one housing opportunity at a time. On this basis, the

Department has encouraged municipalities to develop allocation policies that are aligned with the provincial and national selection framework.

This will ensure that qualifying beneficiaries who have been waiting for an extended period of time, are assisted by also prioritising the vulnerable groups which are those persons and they are: those that are 60 years and older, those with medically certified disabilities, registered and vetted military veterans because this is a standard criteria from the National Department of Military Veterans, backyarders and those that are longest on the waiting list. The norm in the province is 15-years and longer at the moment.

Furthermore, the Department also provides training to municipalities on how to manage the Western Cape Housing Demand Database and ensures that it is regularly checked and updated to verify the status of beneficiaries on this specific database. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. The first opportunity is hon Cassiem, but hon Cassiem is not here so I am going to move over to hon Marran, then hon Maseko and then, hon Marais.

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): Thanks, hon Speaker and the question that is being asked is details of the current backlog with regards to people that have applied for free housing opportunities. The question to the hon MEC is: Transhex Housing Project in Worcester. Can the hon MEC tell us how many

houses have been built since 2019 up till now and whether any of those houses have been handed over to beneficiaries. If not, what are those reasons. Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker and once again, thank you to hon member Marran for the question. Indeed, Transhex is a site which we are prided in the use of ABT or Alternative Building Technologies. Since 2019 up until last week, all 190 houses have been completed, they have been slagged. We have been provided with a certificate of occupation. So, the hon member will be glad to hear, hon Speaker, through you, that we have sent through an invitation to the Standing Committee Chairperson and the Standing Committee members on whether they will actually hand over those units. So, this means those first 190 individuals and qualifying beneficiaries which have been waiting since 2019, will now be afforded a housing opportunity. And I just want to thank the hon member for consistently hammering on Transhex because now he will see what will happen in the next few weeks. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I see hon Maseko.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Thank you very ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Marran and hon Minister, there is a ...[Interjection.]

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The reality of the backlog is the land invasion redirected the budget, hon Minister. The community dynamics is another deterrent for service delivery for the housing and also, the cut of the budget that is a ripple effect from the equitable share. That is our reality for the backlog.

What I want to find out from you is to what extent is the extortion syndicate and lack of intelligence unit in the South African Police Service impacting the rate of housing delivery and consequently, contributing in the housing backlog in the Western Cape province.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Maseko. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Through you, to the Standing Committee Chairperson of Human Settlements. Indeed, the impact of land invasions, the impact of budget that has been cut year-on-year to cover for other areas within the national fiscus has seen, together with now the most recent increase in extortion across various sites of the Western Cape and this data is up until 2 December 2022.

Of the qualifying beneficiaries, 21 620 are still now, unfortunately, part of the backlog that I have answered hon member Cassiem on and 97% of those affected are residents within the City of Cape Town jurisdiction, hon members. So, indeed, land invasions, extortion and a dwindling budget have

a massive impact. And like I said, we will need another R100-billion to effectively address the real backlog of the Western Cape. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. To the hon Minister. The thing that bothers me is that the Constitution does not say you have a right to a house. It says you have a right of access to adequate housing. There is a big difference between a right to a house and a right of access to a house.

Now, what would the hon Minister say in his opinion, constitutes adequate housing and when he talks about free housing, is he sure that the housing given is adequate; that a family of four get a house that is adequate for a family of four? That the family of six get a house that is adequate for a family of six? Have you done those sums or can you force, or can you give a family of five or six people a house with one bedroom? Is this the standard the Western Cape set for adequate housing, a standard also adopted by all the other eight provinces or does each province determine its own standard in terms of adequate housing?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker and through you to the hon Marais. I do believe that the National Housing Code and Regulations actually answers the first component of a housing

opportunity or the adequate housing opportunity which is why the structure of the grants are as follows.

We have the Human Settlements Development Grant which speaks to the development of serviced sites as a provision of a housing opportunity in its infancy format, up until the construction of a 40 square metre house, which is the national norm. Each of these units must have two bedrooms, a bathroom and an open-plan kitchen and living area. We are taking cognisance that many of our people pre-1994, actually never had an opportunity to own even a 20 square metre housing opportunity. This is deemed as sufficient to kick-start their journey into ownership.

I must emphasise that State-subsidised housing creates, firstly, an opportunity for you to gain access to ownership. Secondly, to ensure that those of our qualifying beneficiaries who can ultimately afford to extend those units, can then do so. Which is why adequate housing is deemed as a starting journey for you on your journey to ownership. Sadly, we have seen the distortion of certain political parties. They think of housing as a double storey house, for instance, which is not the intention of what the Housing Code is.

The other component is, and hon member Marais will note, that across all nine provinces there is the emergence of backyard dwellers and there is the emergence of informal settlements, who are also a form of qualifying beneficiaries that need State assistance.

But once again, to address the issue of informal settlements. There is a separate grant that was initiated last year after much lobbying, among others, by the Western Cape to see how effectively we can start the process of improving the lives of those that live in informality in the Western Cape, and this is where provinces do have a leeway on how we implement this programme. Even before the National Minister announced last year the targeted grant, the Western Cape since 2017, through its own funding strength, has actually started to go beyond just the upgrading of a site.

We have now gone to giving a 'wet-core', giving a concrete toilet with a washbasin and ultimately, the beneficiary or the recipient could then ultimately build and extend the house. We will be making key announcements within this budget cycle. We call it incremental housing, which is going above and beyond even what the National Government expects of any province because we have said the cornerstone of everything that we do, whether you live in informality or you are getting a formal housing opportunity in the Western Cape, we want to ensure ownership.

But part of that ownership is also restoring people's dignity and many of the beneficiaries which are on this backlog, which I have engaged with and I have been across the entire province, many of them just want a kickstart. They want to actually just build their own houses or at least get to a point where we can service a site, give them a partial structure which is the incrementality formula which we will be using, and they want to build their

own houses. So, those are the key aspects which we will be focusing on.

So indeed, adequate housing speaks to that. Giving you a kickstart in life and ensuring ultimately, you do progress further in your life, hon member Marais. But we have also seen in comparison to the other eight provinces and this is where Local Government is key, where a municipality takes ownership with the Provincial Government, not as in the Western Cape. I have seen this. We do see other quality houses being built. Some with tiled roofs, some have different colours, some have showers. Some even have solar panels, which is why it is a partnership approach when we seek to address the issue of housing in a specific province.

In our province, too, such examples are the Municipality of Mossel Bay where you will actually see above and beyond what the national norms expect of us. They have actually installed solar panel geysers; they have ensured that there is access to warm water in those houses. If you go to the Swartland Municipality, the De Hoop project. Its next phase, once again, adaptations, safety aspects, stoeps being introduced, different types of lighting.

Once again, to provide our qualifying beneficiaries access to an adequate housing opportunity fully understanding that when we transfer ownership and they get the title deed, many of them want to pass that asset on to the next generation. And doing that, some of our qualifying-beneficiaries work. They extend out of their own pockets or gain access to a bond to actually build

those houses to the sizes which they deem fit. So, many of them welcome a two bedroomed house with a toilet, with an open plan-kitchen and living area because many of them have never had it. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister Simmers. Hon members, that is the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Our standing replies will be printed in Hansard. There will now be an opportunity as per Rule 145 for Members Statements. I recognise the DA, hon Chief Whip.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I want to use this opportunity today to focus attention on the stellar work that is being done by the DA-led Government in bringing Government closer to the people. On Monday, the Executive Mayor of the Cape Winelands District Municipality, Elna von Schlicht, made a stop in Stellenbosch as part of her Mayoral Monday outreach. First instituted in September 2022, Mayor Van Schlicht, her Mayco members and officials have travelled across the district to meet and engage directly with businesses, NGOs and community organisations. Today, hon Speaker, as it is the first Thursday, hon members of the Executive in the Western Cape, together with officials from the City of Cape Town will be engaging residents one-on-one in order to listen and to provide help.

At a time when the ANC National Government is failing to open itself to

accountability and disregarding the oversight mechanisms of the National Assembly and the NCOP, in the Western Cape the provincial and local governments are meeting communities where they are. I also welcome hon Minister Mireille Wenger's *#Messages4Mireille* campaign aimed at encouraging residents of the province to give their inputs on the Western Cape's main budget. These engagements go a long way in enabling an environment that builds trust and encourages transparency between governments and residents. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. I now see the ANC. Hon Mvimbi?

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The ANC notes with concern, caution, as well as to a certain extent, with disappointment the appointment of hon Ricardo Mackenzie as the MEC for Transport. We are further disappointed into the criteria that might have been used by the hon Premier in appointing this MEC because the hon Premier seems hellbent in appointing yes-men and those who are singing for their supper. We have now seen on the eve of the appointment of the hon member while he was still singing for his supper, he stood in the House calling the taxi industry 'thuggery and criminal', and also those that are invoking terrorism.

His first assignment in the new portfolio was to intervene in the planned shutdown of the taxi industry. He only agreed to a meeting because he wanted to avert the planned stay-away. When thorny issues and concerns

were raised, he chose to appoint a taxi task team. We hope that this task team will go a long way to address the myriad of structural challenges in the industry, including the need for subsidisation, the challenges presented by the abrupt termination of the Red Dot/Blue Dot initiative and many other initiatives. We hope that the grandstanding that was done during the State of the Province Address is actually going to come back and haunt them.

The Central Line is another issue that needs to be addressed and we have also noted that the hon member misled the House along with guests who were present during the SOPA and PRASA, by referring to PRASA as dumping people in Mitchells Plain. But on closer scrutiny of the matter, this is what we have found out. PRASA has been engaging with the City of Cape Town regarding this issue and the actual people who really do not care about these communities are actually the City of Cape Town and the DA. PRASA could not acquire the land for human settlement because ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mvimbi, your time has expired.

Mr L L MVIMBI: ...to approach the Department of Human Settlements for assistance as the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mvimbi. Please take your seat.

Mr L L MVIMBI: ...for purposes of human settlement. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now see the EFF. Okay, alright. I now – let us move on. I now see the ANC. [Interjections.] Oh, my apologies, the DA.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Can I ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas?

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Can I do ...[Inaudible.]?

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, are you wanting to do a statement?

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Yes. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, then I did provide you an opportunity, you said no. So ...[Interjection.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): No ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: ...it is fine. I will allow you to do that.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, can I please ask that you put on the microphone and stand by your seat. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: From your seat. [Interjections.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Oh!

The SPEAKER: You need to speak from your bench.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Are you fine ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members. Hon members, there is an hon member on the floor.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Are you fine now? The EFF would like to take this opportunity to condemn the Western Cape Department of Health in the manner in which it continues to treat nurses working on contracts in its various facilities. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department hired nurses on contracts in various hospitals, including temporary health facilities.

The COVID-19 facilities, such as Brackengate, continue to operate as transitional care facilities and the contracts of nurses were renewed from time to time. The Brackengate facility management has now made a decision to terminate the contract of all its nurses, who were described as heroes and heroines during the height of the pandemic and instead, replacing with new nurses from elsewhere. This is how inhumane the DA-led Government treats

workers, including those who assisted them during difficult times.

Instead of absorbing these nurses into the system and making them permanent, this Department is pulling out all stops to make sure that they go back to being unemployed. [Interjections.] The same Government that prides itself as being the best when it comes to the list of unemployment rates in the country, is now hellbent of purging workers who are at the forefront of service delivery. Now that the nurses are planning a protest, the Department has circulated a letter to the chief executive officers of Tygerberg Hospital, Eerste River Hospital ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, your time has expired. Thank you very much. Please take your seat. [Applause.] Thank you. I now see – hon Klaas, please take your seat – I now see the DA.

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): Geagte Speaker, as gevolg van die gesamentlike poging van amptenare, kontrakteurs en belanghebbendes van Saxonsea Junior Hoërskool van die uitbreiding van die hoërskool, is meer Graad 8- en 9 leerders geakkommodeer. Hierdie skool vorm deel van die Wes-Kaap se Departement van Onderwys se innoverende versnelde bouprogram wat daarop gemik is om kapasiteit vir leerderplasings te verhoog. Hierdie klaskamers was binne 65 dae en binne 'n begroting van R40-miljoen gebou. Die skool was gereed vir die begin van die 2023 akademiese jaar en het daartoe bygedra dat daar geen ongeplaasde leerders in die Atlantis-gebied was nie, soos wat ons by die skoolhoof gehoor het.

Ná 'n onaangekondigde oorsigbesoek verlede week deur die Staande Komitee van Onderwys, kon die komitee lede eerstehands die uitsonderlike bougehalte van die nuwe skool aanskou. Deur 'n kombinasie van baksteen en mortel en alternatiewe staalraamboutegnologie te gebruik, is die skool netjies gebou om in die behoeftes van die gemeenskap te voorsien.

Tydens die besoek het ons die volgende installasies gesien: nege splinternuwe klaskamers wat altesaam ongeveer 405 ekstra leerders akkommodeer, 'n veeldoelige leersentrum vir ongeveer 200 tot 250 leerders, twee nuwe JoJo-watertenke, 'n nuwe kluis vir eksamenvraestelle om te stoor, hulpbronnepakke vir skryfbehoeftes, handboeke, sowel as skoonmaakprodukte vir een tot twee jaar, verskeie olyfbome en vetplante wat rondom die skool geplant was vir volhoubaarheid en 'n groen omgewing rondom die nuwe strukture te bevorder.

Geagte Speaker, ons kan trots wees op die kwaliteit konstruksie wat by die skool uitgevoer is en wat ons laas week gesien het, is moontlik wanneer ons 'n hele samelewingsbenadering volg. Die konstruksiemaatskappy het ook plaaslike maatskappye opgelei om subkontraakteurs te word en het deur naweke en feestyd gewerk om te verseker dat die skool betyds gebou word.

Daar was ook baie betrokkenheid vanaf ouers en die skoolbeheerliggaam in hierdie projek gesien, wat altyd deel gevorm het van die kriteria van 'n suksesvolle skool.

Saxonsea Junior Hoërskool is 'n uitstekende voorbeeld van die Departement

se innoverende versnelde bouprogram en ons sien uit na nog verdere vordering in hierdie program. Dankie.

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker. As a result of the joint effort of the officials, contractors and interested parties of Saxonse Junior High School to expand the school, more Grade 8 and 9 learners are accommodated. This school forms part of the Western Cape Department of Education's innovative fast-track building programme aimed at increasing the capacity for learner placement. These classrooms were built within 65 days and a budget of R40-million. The school was ready for the start of the 2023 academic year and contributed to the fact that there were no unplaced learners in the Atlantis area, as we heard from the school principal.

Following an unannounced oversight visit last week by the Standing Committee on Education, the Committee members could firsthand see the outstanding quality of building of the new school. Through a combination of brick and mortar and using alternative steel frame building technology, the school was built neatly to fulfil the needs of the community.

During the visit, we saw the following installations: nine brand new classrooms that accommodate about 405 extra learners, a multipurpose learning centre for about 200 to 250 learners, two new JoJo water tanks, a new safe for exam papers storage, resource packs for stationery, handbooks, as well as cleaning products for one to two years, various olive trees and succulents planted around the school for sustainability and to develop a green

environment around the new structure.

Hon Speaker, we can be proud of the quality construction done at the school and what we saw last week, is possible when we follow a whole of society approach. The construction company also trained local companies to become subcontractors and worked through weekends and the festive season to ensure that the school is built in time.

There was also a lot of involvement by parents and the school control board in this project, that have always formed part of the criteria of a successful school.

Saxonsea Junior High School is an outstanding example of the Department's innovative fast-track building programme and we look forward to more progress in this program. Thank you.]

†Die SPEAKER: Agbare Baartman, jou tyd is verstreke.

[The SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, your time has expired.]...[Interjections.] hon members! Hon members, I now see the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The ANC welcomes the Presidential Employment Stimulus which has reached the one million opportunity mark, launched in October in 2020 in the height of the COVID-19 lockdown. President Ramaphosa launched the Presidential Employment

Stimulus to create opportunities in jobs, provide work experience, strengthen livelihoods, develop skills and encourage small business owners. The Presidential Employment Stimulus is an integral part of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan developed by the ANC National Government, in order to mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19 on our economy and livelihoods. A central priority of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan is to advance rapid and inclusive growth, so as to create more decent jobs. The aim of the Presidential Employment Stimulus is to utilise public funding to create jobs and support livelihoods, given the failure of the private sector to create jobs.

Among the achievements of the Presidential Employment Stimulus are: nearly 6 000 young people have been placed at school assistance; over 142 000 production input vouchers have been issued to subsistence farmers assisting them to resume and expand after disruptions of COVID-19; 54 000 Early Childhood Development practitioners have received support to ensure the survival and reopening of ECD centres; 32 000 people in the creative sector have been supported to produce movies, animations, books in indigenous languages, theatre productions, mural art and much more; 26 of our universities have been supported to place graduates in work that provides them experience relevant to their qualifications. Whilst the DA complains and makes smoke and mirror programmes, the ANC Government nationally is hard at work. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Nkondlo. [Applause.] I now see

the DA.

†Mnr I SILEKU (DA): Agbare Speaker, baie dankie vir die geleentheid. [Mr I SILEKU: (DA): Hon Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.] Loadshedding has become such a crisis that it is interfering with municipalities' ability to provide the most basic services, especially as it relates to water. Water is life, and life needs to preserve. Therefore, water needs to be treated and pumped for it to be fit for consumption and for that to happen, electricity is a necessity. With the continued mismanagement and corruption at Eskom, the ANC is not only depriving this country of light, it is also leaving the taps dry. †Gelukkig vir die inwoners van die Wes-Kaap, [Fortunately for the citizens of the Western Cape,] the Western Cape Government is stepping up where the National Government is failing our municipalities.

The Department of Local Government has allocated almost R89-million to make sure that critical water infrastructure is not put permanently out of action by relentless and unpredictable ANC-sponsored blackouts. This money will be used to procure emergency diesel generators to be used for water treatment, water distribution and wastewater systems during periods of prolonged loadshedding.

The DA difference in the administration of these funds is that there will be strict controls and conditions attached to the use thereof. [Interjections.] Municipalities will be required to report on the use of these funds to the Department of Local Government to make sure every cent is spent in service

of our residents, and that is what people in the Western Cape have come to expect and that should be the norm in the rest of our country. It is the people's money and the DA seems to be the only party that understands that. ...[Interjection.]. †Baie dankie. [Applous.] Thank you. [Applause.]

Die SPEAKER: †Dankie, agb Sileku.

[The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Sileku.] I see – hon members! Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon member Marran, we are nearly at the end of this sitting. I now see the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus mourns the fact that South Africa has become a lawless society, where respect for authority and even fear for the long arm of the law is non-existent. A country at the mercy of cartels, but also murderers, rapists, juvenile delinquents at all levels of society. Even Parliament, all three spheres of Parliament, Government has set new standards for disrespect of rules, regulations and authority.

Our Standing Rules of this House is not worth the paper it is written on. Nobody shows any respect for it. I do not know why we have got Rules. Let us take the following: irrelevant questioning, Rule 44. Nobody observes it. Repetitive arguments, Rule 50, grave disorder: nobody worries about it. Non-interruptions, Clause 40: nobody heeds it. They interrupt ad infinitum. The list is endless. Contraventions are not punished in terms of Rule 45, by any Speaker in this House. The hon Speaker, ha, is the garbage boy of this

House. That is how he is being treated. So, why do we have Rules?

No wonder the public has lost respect for this Western Cape Parliament. They do not even listen to the videos. I have watched how many people listen. There are 7-million people in this province. If 300 view our videos, then they say we have done well: 300 out of 7-million! Hon members should do themselves ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Marais, can you please conclude.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon members should do themselves a favour and watch how many people even view our videos. It is time to take a real hard look at our behaviour and performance in this House ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...apply the Rules or scrap the Rules.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. I see the Al Jama-Ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is a fact that apartheid has left a legacy of severe inequalities and socio-economic imbalances, which led to among other issues, a lack of adequate housing for the poor. People continue to live under extreme squalor in informal settlements, locations and various townships of the Cape Flats.

Before 1994, the City of Cape Town based its planning on how to control the influx of citizens from other parts of the country. It is, indeed, disturbing seeing that 30 years into democracy, we still have a form of influx control in spatial planning. The poor and working-class people are being driven out of the city and there are no affordable housing developments in the city or near the city for them. The Province and City have allowed the housing backlog to increase drastically. We have a housing crisis comprising of (a) lack of adequate housing, (b) slow rate of delivery, (c) evictions, especially in rural areas.

It is not surprising that housing activists in the province have taken the Western Cape Government to court over the sale of the Tafelberg property in Sea Point. Al Jama-Ah salutes these activists for their fight against apartheid spatial planning. This 1,2-hectare site should be developed into affordable housing for the poor. We see on the Cape Flats that housing for the poor is developed on the borders of more affluent areas. Apartheid spatial planning continues in the white leafy suburbs. The Province and the City have a constitutional obligation ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Brinkhuis, please conclude. Your time has expired.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): The Province and City have a constitutional obligation in the disposal of public land and fair public participation in the decisions taken ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. [Applause.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, thank you.

The SPEAKER: I now see the DA.

Mr G PRETORIUS (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, today's debate has seen much discussion on the energy crisis in our province. However, I believe that every hon member of this House will agree with me when I say that it is unacceptable for any medical facility to put a patient's life in danger ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, honourable ...[Interjection.]

Mr G PRETORIUS: ...as a result of a power cut.

The SPEAKER: Hon Pretorius, if you can just give me one second. Hon members, this is the maiden ...[Interjection.] maiden speech of the hon member. Please allow the hon member to deliver his maiden speech.

Mr G PRETORIUS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is not an exaggeration to say that when it comes to the healthcare, a reliable supply of electricity can literally mean the difference between life and death. It is for this reason that I wish to express my gratitude to the Department of Health

and Wellness for stepping up to the plate and ensuring that even our smallest health facilities are not left without power.

Starting last month, the Department has been rolling out hybrid inverters to more than 50 rural clinics across the province, with a further 71 to follow in Phase 2. These inverters are cost-effective and environmentally friendly, but more than this, will provide power for the critical systems that keep our patients healthy and alive. For many, these smaller clinics are the sole source of healthcare available, and this initiative is proof that this Government refuses to leave our rural communities behind.

When we speak of the DA difference, hon Speaker, this is what we mean: real solutions to the problems caused by the National Government which will have a real impact on the lives of our citizens. I commend hon Minister Mbombo and the Department of Health and Wellness on their fine work in this area and invite all the hon members of the House to do the same. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Hon members, that concludes Members Statements. In accordance with Rule 145(6), I now allow one or more members of the Executive present to respond to the Member Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. Hon Minister Simmers, for the record.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: My apologies.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Speaker, thank you very much. I will just have to touch on two specific, pertinent points which have come through. The one point came from hon member Mvimbi in terms of the PRASA position of land and to actually move people from the Central Line. I just want to give the hon member facts because in exactly nine days from now, I had a meeting a year ago with individuals, now your Secretary-General who is about to become the former Minister of Transport. Since then, the National Department of Transport or PRASA: there is no confirmed funding, even though they committed to providing funding to move the citizens from the Central Line. [Interjection.] They committed to ensuring that they will buy land to move the people to. Twelve months later, hon Speaker no portion of land has been bought ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: The portion of land ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...they have identified is not sufficient enough for these ...[Interjections.] for the [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...on the Central Line.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members ...[Interjections.] hon members, there were Members Statements. The Rules provide for a response by the Executive to those Members Statements. When the Members Statements were delivered ...[Interjection.] hon Nkondlo! When the Members Statements – that is a response to the Members Statements. ...[Interjection.] I mean, that is as per the Rules. [Interjections.] So, allow the hon Minister ...[Interjections.] Hon Nkondlo and hon Chief Whip! The hon Minister is on the floor responding to statements made. If you like it or not, that is the response as per the Rules. So, allow the hon Minister the opportunity to respond. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And hon Speaker, through you. As much as the Opposition might like to make this a Human Settlements matter, the National Minister of Transport committed to providing funding to see those people moved from the Central Line and that is why I am referring to this specific objective. [Interjections.] But like anything else the ANC Government does at a national level, it was all hot air. No results as we speak. [Interjections.]

Then, to the hon member of Al Jama-Ah, hon Speaker, through you. Where we are developing projects, it is not just on the periphery of this province or in a municipal area. We have projects within all 25 municipalities and actually seek to integrate different communities. I would advise the hon member, if he has not done so already, to make contact with the Standing Committee Chairperson of Human Settlements. Get a list of all 176 projects and see what we are developing, but we are breaking down the segregation of apartheid. Yes, it takes time, but we are integrating our people to mixed-use developments. I thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Are there any further hon members of the Executive that would like to ...[Interjections.] Is there anyone online? Alright. Thank you very much, hon Minister Simmers. That brings us to the end of Members Statements.

MOTIONS

In terms of Rule 151, all Notices of Motions by members must be delivered to the Secretary for placement on the Order Paper. Accordingly, these motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the ongoing intimidation by taxis of school learner transport operators.

[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House takes the necessary steps to amend and strengthen the Rules concerning proceedings and the conduct of members during House Sittings in order to bring order to proceedings and protect the dignity of the Provincial Parliament, while ensuring and protecting the freedom of speech of all the honourable members and, most importantly, maintaining respect for the rulings by the Speaker at all times.

[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]

Ms L M MASEKO: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the impact of extortion on housing and infrastructure development projects in the Western Cape.

[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]

Ms L M MASEKO: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the impact of land invasions on housing delivery in the Western Cape.

[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]

The SPEAKER: We now move on to Motions without Notice as per Rule 150. Hon members would note that in terms of Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolences and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to the plenary. And hon members would further remember that Motions without Notice on congratulatory and condolences will not be allowed in this sitting if the Programming Authority has not processed them.

In this regard, the Table staff informs me that in the Programming Authority meeting, political parties submitted the names of hon members in the desired order of speaking and had indicated their respective hon members with the desire to move a Motion without Notice in this sitting of the House. I will therefore, just for noting and for the Minutes, call out the hon members' names who have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The Programming Authority therefore approved the following hon members' motions as follows: hon M Kama, hon C M Dugmore, hon P Z Lekker, hon N G Bakubaku-Vos, hon C M Dugmore, hon A P Bans, hon D M Baartman, hon A P Van der Westhuizen, hon L M Maseko, hon L M Maseko again, and hon

G Bosman. I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr M KAMA: I move without notice:

That the House conveys its condolences on the tragic passing of Kiernan 'AKA' Forbes; notes that, originally from Cape Town, Kiernan went on to become an accomplished musician and artist, but even better still used his talent and fame to unite South Africans; notes that people from across the racial and class divide have mourned Forbes' terrible passing, which serves as a reminder for us to work harder on toughening our gun laws in our country and to fight crime; notes that it is tragic that such a young life and talent ended so mercilessly; notes that one cannot think of Kiernan and not remember Anele Tembe who also died tragically in the streets of our city; and our thoughts and prayers must be with the Forbes and Tembe families at this time, as well as with the countless families who mourn the passing away of young loved ones.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House notes and mourns the sad passing of Peter Cyril Jones;

notes that he was born in 1950 on 7 December in Somerset West in the Western Cape; notes that he was a Black Consciousness exponent and the last black person to see Steve Biko; notes that Jones joined politics as an activist in school in 1976 and helped to launch his campus branch of the South African Students' Organisation (SASO) in 1970; and notes that he passed away on Wednesday at his Pringle Bay home in the Western Cape after suffering a stroke.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House conveys its deepest condolences on the passing away of Myrtle Witbooi, Secretary of the South African Domestic and Allied Workers' Union and, at the time of her passing, President of the International Domestic Workers' Federation, after being elected as their inaugural President; notes that she was a daughter from Genadendal; notes that Witbooi, after having organised domestic workers for more than five decades, led an international coalition of domestic workers that secured the passing of the Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the International Labour Organisation; notes that the Convention became the first international labour standard to ensure domestic workers the same basic rights as other workers; and notes that, in 2013, Myrtle Witbooi accepted the George Meany–Lane Kirkland Human Rights Award and in 2015 she was awarded the Fairness Award.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: I move without notice:

That the House sends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Cleo Diko from Mandalay, Cape Town; notes that Cleo was murdered and buried in her boyfriend's backyard; and condemns any acts of gender-based violence.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House conveys its condolences on the passing away of Zayd Minty; notes that he was a cultural development management professional, who worked in and with the cultural sector, civil society, academia and the Government since 1993 in various leadership roles, promoting the use of culture for social and spatial transformation; notes that Minty wrote the only local cultural policy in Africa for the City of Cape Town and developed its successful bid to become the World Design Capital 2014; and extends deepest condolences to his friends and family.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms A P BANS: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Western Cape SAPS, together with Police Commissioner Thembisile Patekile, for outstanding work in arresting corrupt police officials who are allegedly involved in kidnapping, robbery, and assault; and notes that, with the soaring gang-related crimes, including murders and kidnappings in the province, this is stellar work done by SAPS.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Mr Umar Jones from the Blossom Street Primary School on winning the Western Cape 2022 Story Stars competition; notes that this annual creative writing competition is open to all Grade 4s and allows the winner to narrate and star in their own story; notes that it is projects like these that showcase the quality education, dedicated teachers and bright learners in the Western Cape; and notes that we are proud of Umar's achievement and wishes him all the best for his Grade 5 academic year.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: I move without notice:

That the House expresses condolences to the wife and children of Mr Hernice Heyns and the Wupperthal community, after his death in a fatal crash; notes the dedication and passion that Mr Heyns exhibited by serving his community in various ways as a volunteer, especially through his knowledge and experience as an accountant; and acknowledges that his contribution in this field serves as an example for other in their own communities.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms L M MASEKO: I move without notice:

That the House sends its most sincere condolences to the City of Cape Town employee who was the victim of a shooting at the most recent incident of housing extortion; and stands together in the fight against the faceless construction mafia that is terrorising communities, prolonging housing projects in the province and endangering lives.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms L M MASEKO: I move without notice:

That the House commends the Bergrivier Municipality for supporting the

Boland College to obtain a building facility; and commends the municipality for going above and beyond its mandate to ensure the welfare of students.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN: I move without notice:

That the House sends its condolences to the family of actor, comedian and presenter Paul Snodgrass, who passed away on 23 February; notes that, a bright star in the South African media landscape, Paul was featured in a host of local and international productions and worked as a DJ and sporting journalist; and expresses its sadness at the loss of one of the Western Cape and South Africa's finest talents.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections? ...[Interjection.] Hon Klaas, is that an objection?

Mr T M KLAAS: I want just to get clarity ...[Inaudible.] of Motion.

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, we are – your motion will come later. This is what has been agreed to by the Programming Authority, but we are still going to get to your one.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Okay. Thank you. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, can I put the question again: are there any objections?

HON MEMBERS: No! No!

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. [Interjections.] Hon members! The Motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard in each hon members' name as if that member had read them aloud.

Hon members, I will now allow hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule (2)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are reminded of the 30 minutes as per Standing Rule 150(2)(d) will start now. I recognise hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern the rising crime levels in the Western Cape that were reported in the 2022/2023 Third Quarter Crime stats, between October and December 2022, which showed that 1 198 people were murdered, 2 157 Sexual Offences including rape of 1 518 innocent women and children; acknowledges that this picture confirms

that the Western Cape is a crime scene and that the Safety Plan in its current form is a big expensive failure; and calls on the Premier to refocus the implementation of the Safety Plan to address the causative factors of violent crimes; redeploy LEAP officers to rural areas and have a focus on addressing GBV and Femicide. I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bans. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

An HON MEMBER: No, no, no.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now move on. I see hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with pride the work done by Mitchells Plain Crisis Forum and Ravensmead residents to rename a local play park after slain Tazne van Wyk who three years ago, was kidnapped just meters from her home in Claire Street by convicted killer and child rapist Mohyidian Pangaker, who has been sentenced to more than 250 years for his crimes

against children, including of his own family. I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bans. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I now see hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes that the ANC is deeply concerned with absence of regular sittings of this House; it is not acceptable that out of seven Thursdays in the first quarter of the year, there will only be two regular sittings in the House. This gives us an indication that the DA is not interested in holding the Executive accountable and driving service delivery through robust oversight. The DA treats this House like its playground for tick box exercises. This is unacceptable and downright disrespects other political parties in the House and most importantly, the Western Cape public; and calls for the Speaker to make a ruling on this matter.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you ...[Interjections.] Thank you ...[Interjections.] Alright, hon members. Hon members. Hon members! [Interjections.] Thank you, hon Sayed. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without

notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now see hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: †Goed, dankie. [Good, thanks.] [Interjections.] I move without notice:

That the House lauds Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi for the progressive commitments made in his outstanding State of the Province Address where he has committed to use 60% of the R34 billion goods and services budget to support initiatives to boost township economy. This is inclusive of directing Provincial Government procurement to township enterprises as this will go a long way to create employment in each household; commends the Gauteng Province for its dedication towards township economy and calls on the Western Cape Government to follow suit and redirect funds towards township economy and to develop its own township economy act. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: [Interjections.] Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Can I please ask the hon members on my right that you object or you do not object once the question has been put. [Interjections.] Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: We object!

An HON MEMBER: No!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] I now see hon Bakubaku-Vos.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sadness the Western Cape High Court judgment to grant the City of Cape Town permission to evict homeless people off the streets. The notices of eviction are to be served to the people at several occupation hotspots along Buitengracht Street, FW de Klerk Boulevard, Foregate Square, Taxi Rank and Foreshore, Helen Suzman Boulevard, Strand Street, Foreshore/N1 - action by the DA goes a long way to expose a depth of hatred to the poor and downtrodden by the DA; condemns the disingenuous – tst ag, man – disingenuous – ag, oh God! – disingenuous of – Where I was? †Nee God, jy raas man, Piet. [No, God, you're making a noise, Piet.] [Interjections.] – disingenuous

and misleading claims by the Cape Town Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis that the City had done its 'absolute level best' over the past year to offer care to each of the homeless people; appreciates that homelessness is a complex issue that needs various specialties to address the needs of homeless people; and calls on all three spheres of Government to urgently intervene to assist the poor. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bakubaku-Vos. [Interjections.] Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

An HON MEMBER: I object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: No!

The SPEAKER: ...on the Order Paper.

Ms N D NKONDLO: No!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. Let us move on. Hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, thank you. I move without notice:

That the House notes ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, there is an hon member on the floor. We are nearly at the end of this session. [Interjections.] Hon Marran and hon Bakubaku-Vos, there is an hon member on the floor. Hon Sayed, you can continue.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I will continue. [Interjections.] I move without notice:

That the House notes the damning allegations levelled against the principal of Ned Doman High School in Athlone of allegedly intimidating learners and teachers; notes further that several complaints have been made against the principal in the past, including allegedly detaining learners at the school without informing parents, illegally withholding reports of learners who owe fees, and even allegedly undermining the cultural beliefs of learners at the school; despite all these complaints and several other concerns which we have personally raised about the principal, he remains untouchable by the WCED; and we thus cautiously welcome the long overdue visit by the Standing

Committee on Education to the school next week Tuesday and we trust that all sides will be listened to. Thank you. [Interjections.]

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you ...[Interjections.] There is a motion being moved without notice. Are there any objections to the motion being moved?

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

An HON MEMBER: Objection! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon members, can I please ask that when you address the Chair that you do so where you stand up and you then address me. But I cannot engage you if you do not stand up. So, there is a – is there an objection or is there a concern?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. This is not the motion as was shared with us that the hon member has been reading out now.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you. Noted, hon Chief Whip. Hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, I had predicted that this would happen because that is the draft motion. Later on, before the cut-off,

we submitted two in fact, and I have responded to all and the hon members who are now raising the objection are copied in the email. I stated the exact two motions for which the corrected ones ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...were submitted and Mr Poggenpoel ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...is aware. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Deputy Chief Whip. Hon members, there is an hon member on the floor. I will allow you an opportunity if you disagree, but can we please allow the hon member to state his case. Are there any further comments on that? Hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, can this be confirmed ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes!

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...because none of us have our laptops with us.

An HON MEMBER: Yes [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, okay. Alright. Hon members, I have [Interjections.] Hon members, hon members! Hon members, I have been informed or advised by the Table staff that as per the Rules, the motion has been submitted in time and therefore, I will now put that motion. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. There is an objection. The motion will ...[Interjections.] Hon members! Hon members, you ...[Interjections.] Hon members. Hon members, there is an objection, so the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now move on to hon Sayed. Hon Sayed? Ja, you can continue.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with disgust that 32 days have passed since the start of the 2023 academic year and yet, close to 1000 learners are not yet placed at schools which shows that we have a serious multi-year learner placement crisis in this province; notes further that unplaced learners have thus far missed out on 32 of the 51 days for the first

quarter of this academic year; and appreciates that this is a self-orchestrated crisis by the weak Premier and his Government that continue to protect and encourage former Model-C schools to discriminate against learners on the basis of race and class, and thus keep their schools underutilised with average class sizes of less than 25, while schools in poor and working class communities are forced to have up to 70 learners in a class; and repeats the ANC's call for all public ordinary schools to be fully utilised by having up to 35 learners in class. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker, it is a point of order. I just would like the Table staff to confirm that the motion that is read out was submitted because between political parties, if we email each other, we cannot be confirming on the behalf of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I will object her! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, honourable ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I object! I object!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): What I have ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I want to object!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, this is ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No, no, no [Interjections.] There is a hon member on the floor ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): What was read is different ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): That is not ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip and hon Deputy Chief Whip. [Interjections.] Hon Deputy Chief Whip ...[Interjections.] I will again. Is that a similar point? Alright. I was going to get that. Hon Deputy Chief Whip and hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, I will check with the Table staff. Thank you very much. I have been advised by the Table staff that both motions, as per the Rules, were submitted on time and therefore, the motion will be put to the House.

Are there any objections ...[Interjections.] hon Chief Whip of the Opposition!

Hon Chief Whip, hon members ...are there any objections ...[Interjections.]
Hon ...[Interjection.] hon Chief Whip of the Opposition [Laughter.] Hon members, we are nearly at the end of this. We are wasting time because there is a time allocated to Motions without Notice. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes ...[Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection to the motion being moved and it will now be printed on the Order Paper. Thank you very much. I now move onto hon Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House celebrates the life of renowned academic and cultural expert Zayd Minty. Having worked in the culture and development sectors since 1993, Zayd authored the Africa's first municipal culture policy, and was the driving force behind Cape Town's successful bid to be declared a World Design Capital in 2014. He has also curated innumerable cultural exhibitions and used culture to drive transformation and inclusion. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

HON MEMBER: [Interjections.] [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I now put the motion. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No, no.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. I see the hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House notes the Western Cape High Court ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members! Hon Baartman, you may continue.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): I move without notice:

That this House notes the Western Cape High Court judgment handed down yesterday in favour of the Western Cape Education Department against CODETA's illegal attempts to seize control of the scholar transport market. This judgment will end the criminal and profit-motivated blockade against school children by elements of the taxi industry which has resulted in thousands of absences. The House should celebrate the resumption of the academic project by many hundreds of

learners today and commend Minister David Maynier's swift action to resolve this crisis.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I object!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Baartman. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I object!

The SPEAKER: ...without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No!

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now see hon Klaas.

Mr T M KLAAS: I move without notice:

That the House notes that early last week, the DA-led City of Cape Town announced that it was granted an eviction order to remove

homeless people living in the open space around Cape Town; further notes that the City did this without prior engagement with these vulnerable members of our society and without a clear plan as to which shelters they are going to house them in; the majority of homeless people complained afterwards that normally shelters charge rental fees (although this is normally not disclosed to them prior by the City), are squeezed into congested rooms, families are separated, and there is no privacy whatsoever; further calls on the DA-led Western Cape Government to offer homeless people dignified places to live in including access to proper housing as the Constitution of South Africa requires. This Government must make initiatives to assist homeless people to apply for proper houses. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Klaas. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: I object! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon Klaas, I see you again. There is another motion in your name.

Mr T M KLAAS: I move without notice:

That the House notes that the so-called Safety Plan is just a waste of taxpayers' money and there is no statistical evidence that it is effective and successful, taking into account that it operates parallel with the South African Police Services; further notes this so-called Safety Plan is narrow in scope as it only focuses on murders (and even on that, it is failing), whilst it excludes other forms of crime such as gangs charging businesses protection fees; mass murders in the province continue unabated, just like last week, four people were shot and killed in Wallacedene informal settlement close to Kraaifontein; Mfuleni township has taken top spot in the whole country when it comes to the high number of murder rates, according to the latest 2022 Third Quarter Crime Statistics; concludes by asking this Provincial Government to work with the National Government in efforts to eradicate crime in the Province. I so move. [Applause.]

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Klaas. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

HON MEMBERS: No! No! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. ...[Interjection.]

Mr M KLAAS: Why? As long as ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members ...[Interjection.]

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): ...as long as address me. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members, I am going to allow you an opportunity to finish your conversation. [Interjections.] Have you concluded? Alright. Hon members, that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all hon members will be exited from this Sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:56.